

Approved Trees for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Bigtooth maple (Wasatch maple)* <i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	25-30 20-25	Slow growth rate; red-yellow fall color.
Bristlecone pine <i>Pinus longaeva</i> (formerly <i>P. aristata</i>)	15-40 15-25	Dark green, dense foliage; must have good drainage.
Bur oak* <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	70-80 50-80	Stately, long-lived; adapts to alkaline soil.
Cherry <i>Prunus cerasus</i>	20-30	Needs deep well draining soil
Eastern red cedar <i>Juniperus Virginiana</i>	30-50 10-20	Pyramidal shape that fruits cones.
Gambel oak* <i>Quercus gambeli</i>	5-15 10-15	Spreads by root sprouts; often shrubby.
Goldenrain tree* <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	20-35 10-25	Yellow flowers in July; lantern-like pods in late summer; salt tolerant.
Common hackberry* <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	25-45 30-40	Normally an upright, vase-shaped tree; attractive corky bark.
Japanese pagoda tree <i>Sophora japonica</i>	40-60 45-70	Does well in alkaline, saline soils; cream-colored flowers in early summer.
Kentucky coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	50-70 35-50	Slow growth; thick pods on female tree; flowers of male are fragrant.
New Mexican locust <i>Robinia neomexicana</i>	10-20 10-20	Fragrant pink flowers in June; often shrubby and spread from root sprouts.
Oneseed juniper <i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	20-25 15-20	Among the most drought-enduring evergreens.
Pinyon pine <i>Pinus cembroides edulis</i>	15-25 15-20	Must have good drainage.
Ponderosa pine* <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	45-50 35-40	Must have good drainage.
Rocky Mountain juniper <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	25-30 15-20	Numerous varieties available
Shademaster honeylocust* <i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	30-60 25-50	Several varieties available; avoid "sunburst" variety in non-irrigated sites.
Tartarian maple <i>Acer tataricum</i>	15-30 15-18	Green leaves with yellowish-white flowers in the spring that are followed by red samaras in the fall.
Thornless honeylocust* <i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	30-60 25-50	Several varieties available; avoid "sunburst" variety in non-irrigated sites.
Western catalpa* <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	40-50 20-30	Showy white flowers in early summer, cigar-like pods into fall.

* Indicates a tree approved for planting in a right-of-way

Approved Shrubs for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Apache plume <i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	3-5 5-6	Graceful arching stems; large showy flowers; plummy seed heads.
Barberry (Japanese) <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	3-6 3-5	Purple-leaved and dwarf forms available; shade tolerant.
Bladder-senna <i>Colutea arborescens</i>	4-6 4-6	Yellow sweet pea-like flowers in early summer; bladdery pods into fall and winter.
Buffaloberry (silver) <i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	10-15 8-10	Silvery leaves; scarlet fruit.
Ceanothus (fendler) <i>Ceanothus fendleri</i>	1-2 3-5	Gray-green foliage; spiny, low-growing; well drained soils only.
Cinquefoil (Potentilla) <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	1-4	Showy white to yellow flowers in summer. Needs full sun for best flowers.
Cliff fendlerbush <i>Fendlera rupicola</i>	5-6 5-6	White to rose-pink flowers; arching shrub.
Cliff rose <i>Cowania mexicana</i>	10-15 5-10	Stiffly upright shrub or small tree; fragrant white flowers; semi-evergreen; well-drained soils only.
Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	0.5-10	A highly variable group; most have shiny, small leaves; berries are red or black; <i>C. acutifolia</i> is common.
Juniper <i>Juniperus sp.</i>	0.5-10	Available in various heights, foliage colors and foliage textures. Requires good drainage. Pfitzers, "Tammy" and Buffalo varieties are commonly used.
Leadplant <i>A. Amorpha canescens</i>	2-3 3-4	Silvery-gray foliage; purple flowers in summer; fruticosa has greener foliage and up to 10 feet tall.
Mountain-mahogany <i>Cercocarpus sp.</i>	10-1 8-20	Two types – <i>C. montanus</i> is deciduous; <i>C. ledifolius</i> is evergreen; both are stiffly upright shrubs.
New Mexican privet	10-15	Male shrub has showy yellow flowers in spring.
Peashrub <i>Caragana sp.</i>	3-15 5-10	Several forms available; dwarf – <i>C. microphyllus</i> and <i>C. pygmaea</i> ; tall – <i>C. arborescens</i> .
Rabbitbrush <i>Chrysothamnus sp.</i>	2-5 3-4	Greenish to white stems; yellow flowers in summer; tolerates salty soils.
Rock spirea <i>Holodiscus dumosus</i>	3-8 8-10	Graceful arching shrub; creamy white flowers; well-drained soils only.
Saltbrush <i>Atriplex canescens</i>	2-6 4-5	Gray-green leaves; doubtfully hardy in N.E. Colorado; tolerates very high salts.
Sand cherry <i>Prunus besseyi</i>	3-4 4-5	Fragrant, white flowers; edible black fruit; well-drained soils only.
Sage <i>Artemisia sp.</i>	variable	Many hardy forms; gray-green to silvery foliage; some are evergreen.
Sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	3-5 6-8	Grayish foliage; female plants have attractive red-orange fruit.
Sumac (smooth) <i>Rhus glabra cismontane</i>	4-6	Spreads by root suckers; red velvety fruit; scarlet fall color.
Sumac (threeleaf) <i>Rhus trilobata</i>	3-6 8-10	Glossy dark green leaves; showy red velvety fruit.
Yucca <i>Yucca sp.</i>	0.5-3 1-3	Sword-like foliage; showy spikes of creamy-white tinged pink flowers. <i>Y. baccata</i> has large broad, green leaves.

Approved Vines for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Jasmine <i>Jasminum spp.</i>	10-15	Fragrant, white flowers that are present all summer into fall.
Lady Bank's Rose <i>Rosa banksiae</i>	10-20	A big, thorn-less evergreen rose plant.
Potato Vine <i>Solanum jasminoides</i>	6-10	Flower producing vine that blooms between May and September.
Cape Honeysuckle <i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	25-30	Evergreen vine that produces orange and red trumpet shaped flowers.
Star Jasmine <i>Trachelospermum jasminoids</i>	25-30	Fragrant vine known to attract bees and produce star-shaped flowers.
Wisteria <i>Witeria spp.</i>	10-30	Fast grower that produces blue and purple flowers.

Approved Native Grasses for Xeriscaping

Plant Name	Height/spread (in feet)	Comments
Buffalo Grass <i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	N/A	Low growing, fine-textured grayish-green grass.
Indian Ricegrass <i>Achnatherum (oruzopsis) hymenoides</i>	1-3	Tight rolled, slender leaves that has a wiry appearance.
Sideoats Grama <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	1-3	Clump forming grass with blue-green flowering stalks.
Blue Grama <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	1-2	Short flowering stems with narrow leaf blades.
Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	2-5	Ornamental bunchgrass with blue-green stems that turn to red with white in the fall.
Indian Grass <i>Sorghastrum</i>	3-8	Broad blue-green blades with a large, soft golden-brown seed head.