



Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah: 

Showy Flowers: 

Narrow Parking Strips: 

Amur Corktree

Phellodendron amurense



Notes: Grows with a broad canopy and short trunk. Plant male varieties to avoid fruits. Bark is cork-like. Leaves are compound with 5-11 ovate leaflets.

Size: 40h x 40w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Birch, River

Betula occidentalis



Notes: Multi-stemmed tree. More adaptable than most birches. Can be grown in full sun or in part shade. Leaves are oval green, turning dull yellow in fall.

Size: 50h x 30w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Catalpa, Western

Catalpa speciosa



Notes: Large shade tree. Flowers are very fragrant though the fruits can be messy. Prefers full to part sun. Very large, heart-shaped leaves.

Size: 50h x 40w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

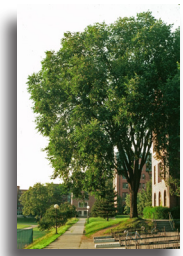
Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Elm, American

Ulmus americana



Notes: Makes an excellent shade tree with a thick trunk. Select a variety resistant to Dutch elm disease. Leaves turn yellow in fall.

Size: 75h x 50w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 2

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Elm, Lacebark

Ulmus parvifolia



Notes: Beautiful tree with attractive bark and resistance to Dutch elm disease. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Leaves turn reddish-purple in fall.

Size: 40h x 40w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Spreading

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba



Notes: A tough shade tree with beautiful foliage. Many varieties are available, but plant males to avoid smelly fruit. Leaves turn bright-yellow in fall.

Size: 30h x 25w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 3


Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah: 

Showy Flowers: 

Narrow Parking Strips: 

Ginkgo, Goldspire

Ginkgo Biloba 'Goldspire'



Notes: A very narrow and upright variety with all the toughness of the standard ginkgo tree including air pollution, heat, and various soil types. Yellow fall color.

Size: 25h x 7w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Columnar

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Goldenrain Tree

Koelreuteria paniculata



Notes: A tree that tolerates many conditions. Its name is due to the sprays of yellow flowers in the spring, followed by yellowish-pink fruits resembling paper lanterns. No fall color of note.

Size: 30h x 30w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Hackberry, Common

Celtis occidentalis



Notes: Leaves emerge later than other trees and flowers emerge soon after. Fruits are often retained through the winter. No fall color of note.

Size: 40h x 40w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 2

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Hawthorn, Cockspur

Crataegus crusgalli



Notes: Branches have thorns, though there are thornless varieties available. Fruit persists through late fall and into winter. Smooth, glossy, dark green leaves turn red to yellow in fall.

Size: 25h x 25w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Hawthorn, Green

Crataegus viridis



Notes: A hardy and adaptable tree that is more pest resistant than other hawthorns. White flowers in spring and fruit persists through winter. Leaves are dark green and turn purple to red in fall.

Size: 20h x 20w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Hawthorn, Washington

Crataegus phaenopyrum



Notes: Similar growth habit to other hawthorns. White flowers bloom in late spring and fruit persists through winter. Leaves are glossy green and turn bright orange in fall.

Size: 30h x 25w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah:



Showy Flowers:

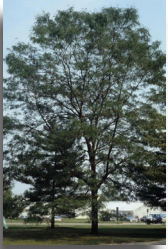


Narrow Parking Strips:



Honeylocust

Gleditsia triacanthos



Notes: Native to eastern U.S. A tough tree with several varieties available. Leaves are compound and lace-like, so difficult to rake and not great for providing shade. Yellow fall color.

Size: 50h x 40w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Juniper, Eastern Redcedar

Juniperus virginiana



Notes: Very adaptable to a wide variety of conditions. Pyramidal growth similar to other junipers. Forms blue, berry-like fruit that attracts birds.

Size: 50h x 25w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 2

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Juniper, Rocky Mountain

Juniperus scopulorum



Notes: Dense, pyramidal growth pattern makes the tree great for privacy or shaping into large hedges. Very drought-tolerant with berry-like blue fruit that attracts birds.

Size: 25h x 20w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Juniper, Utah

Juniperus osteosperma



Notes: Dense, pyramidal growth pattern makes the tree great for privacy or shaping into large hedges. Very drought-tolerant with berry-like blue fruit that attracts birds.

Size: 25h x 20w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 3

Tolerance

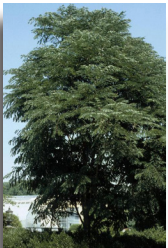
Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Kentucky Coffeetree

Gymnocladus dioica



Notes: A large shade tree that has very heavy, upright branches and prefers well-drained soils. Leathery, reddish brown seed pods add winter interest. Leaves are bluish-green and turn yellow in fall.

Size: 50h x 35w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

London Planetree

Platanus x acerifolia



Notes: A very large shade tree that is well-adapted and resilient to urban environments. Mottled bark provides winter interest. Is susceptible to the disease, anthracnose.

Size: 70h x 50w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 3


Tolerance

Alkaline: Med


Salt: Med

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah: 

Showy Flowers: 

Narrow Parking Strips: 

Maple, Bigtooth

Acer grandidentatum



Notes: In general, has a short trunk with dense, spreading branches. Requires occasional deep soaking or it will be susceptible to leaf scorch. Foliage turns bright orange to red in fall.

Size: 25h x 20w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Spreading

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Maple, Tatarian

Acer tataricum



Notes: Also called the Hot Wings Maple. Bright red pairs of samaras cover the tree in late spring after blooming. Toothed, bright-green, yellow to red/brown fall color.

Size: 15h x 20w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Irregular

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Maple, Tatarian Hot Wings

Acer tataricum 'Garann'



Notes: A great choice for a small shade tree with strong branch unions. Tolerates a wide range of soils. The seed samaras resemble flowers, being scarlet-red and persisting through the summer. Fall color is yellow to red.

Size: 18h x 18w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Irregular

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Maple, Trident

Acer buergerianum



Notes: A tough shade tree that grows well in full sun and a range of soil moistures and textures. Growth rate is slow to medium growth and fall color is orange to red.

Size: 25h x 15w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Mountain Mahogany

Cercocarpus montanus



Notes: A small, native shrub with broad, evergreen leaves. Flowers are inconspicuous. Tolerates all soil conditions.

Size: 20h x 15w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Irregular

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Mountain Mahogany, Curlleaf

Cercocarpus ledifolius



Notes: A medium-sized native shrub with long, rolled, leathery leaves that are evergreen leaves. A great choice for water-efficient landscapes.

Size: 20h x 30w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Irregular

Zone: 3

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah:



Showy Flowers:



Narrow Parking Strips:



Oak, Bur

Quercus macrocarpa



Notes: A large shade tree native to the Midwest that forms a dense canopy and large trunk. Adaptable to a wide variety of environments. Leaves are large and glossy green.

Size: 65h x 50w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Spreading

Zone: 2

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Oak, Chinkapin

Quercus muehlenbergii



Notes: A member of the white oak group that is tolerant of all soil types include Utah's alkaline soils. The light-gray bark and branch structure provide a nice silhouette in winter. A long taproot makes it difficult to transplant.

Size: 50h x 50w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin

Quercus prinoides



Notes: A tough, small tree for full sun that can also be grown as a shrub. It tolerates drought and poor soils well. Acorns form each year and are highly attractive to wildlife. Native to eastern U.S.

Size: 15h x 15w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Spreading

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Oak, Kindred Spirit

Quercus x warei 'Nadler'



Notes: Forms a tight, upright canopy good for small spaces. Tolerates drought, pollution, salt, and clay soils. Deep green leaves turn yellow in late fall.

Size: 35h x 6w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Columnar

Zone: 4

Tolerance

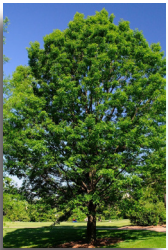
Alkaline: Med

Salt: High

Drought: High

Oak, Shumard

Quercus shumardii



Notes: Vigorous growth forms a large shade tree with a dense canopy, great for the urban environment. Tolerates drought but prefers moist soils. Dark green leaves turn a red fall color.

Size: 60h x 50w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Oak, Turkey

Quercus cerris



Notes: A small shade tree native to parts of eastern U.S. that tolerates dry, sandy soils. The stout, spreading branches form a broad, irregular-shaped crown.

Size: 60h x 60w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Irregular

Zone: 5


Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah: 

Showy Flowers: 

Narrow Parking Strips: 

Parrotia, Persian

Parrotia persica



Notes: A great, tough tree for small spaces. Small red flowers bloom in early spring. Prefers full sun and tolerates dry soils. The oval leaves turn yellow, orange, and red in fall. Hardy to Zone 5, so it may suffer cold injury.

Size: 30h x 25w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Pine, Austrian

Pinus nigra



Notes: Canopy becomes more umbrella-shaped with age for this very hardy tree. Needles are sharp and bluish-green.

Size: 60h x 40w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Pine, Bosnian

Pinus heldreichii



Notes: More columnar than most other pines. Great for providing year-round screening. Generally considered a dwarf pine.

Size: 30h x 15w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Pine, Bristlecone

Pinus longaeva or aristata



Notes: Several varieties of both species are available. Both are native, slow-growing pines for visual interest. The twisted branches provide winter interest. Shallow root system makes them susceptible to soil moisture changes.

Size: 20h x 25w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Irregular

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Pine, Limber

Pinus flexilis



Notes: Branches are very flexible making them resistant to heavy snow loads and strong winds. Needles are soft and feathery.

Size: 30h x 25w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: High

Drought: High

Pine, Pinyon

Pinus edulis



Notes: Forms a short, broad, and dense canopy with sharp needles. Produces edible pine nuts after 15 years of age. Can tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions except wet soils. Single-leaf pinyon is similar.

Size: 20h x 25w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5


Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah: 

Showy Flowers: 

Narrow Parking Strips: 

Pine, Scotch

Pinus sylvestris



Notes: Large pine with reddish bark that tolerates harsh conditions. Can be used as a windbreak or screening.

Size: 60h x 35w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Pyramidal

Zone: 2

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Low

Drought: High

Pine, Single-leaf Pinyon

Pinus monophylla



Notes: Prefers full sun or part shade. Can tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions except wet soils. It's the only one needle pine tree.

Size: 30h x 20w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Redbud, Western

Cercis occidentalis



Notes: A shrub to small tree with an irregular growth habit that is often spreading. Can be multi-stemmed. Prefers sun to partial shade and well-drained soil.

Size: 20h x 15w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Low

Drought: High

Rubber Tree, Hardy

Eucommia ulmoides



Notes: Forms an attractive shade tree with a dense, round crown. Adaptable to a variety of conditions. Generally considered pest resistant. The large, leathery, glossy-green leaves are attractive.

Size: 50h x 30w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

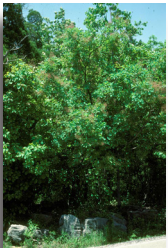
Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Smoketree, American

Cotinus obovatus



Notes: A tough, small, accent tree that is adaptable to many adverse soil conditions. Flower clusters resemble pink puffs of smoke in summer. Clean, blue-green foliage turns orange to red in fall.

Size: 20h x 20w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Tupelo, Black

Nyssa sylvatica



Notes: A great shade tree that produces small purple fruits. The smooth, glossy, dark green, foliage turns red-yellow in fall.

Size: 40h x 25w

Growth Rate: Slow

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: Low

Salt: High

Drought: High

Drought Tolerant Trees

Native to Utah:



Showy Flowers:



Narrow Parking Strips:



Zelkova

Zelkova serrata



Notes: An upright, tough shade tree whose foliage resembles elm. Grows in most soil types but prefers well-drained soil and full sun to part shade. Leaves turn orange to yellow in fall.

Size: 50h x 40w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Zelkova, City Sprite

Zelkova serrata 'JFS-KW1' PP 20996



Notes: Compact, dense, and semi-dwarf, this is the perfect little tree for tight urban spaces. Summer foliage appears brighter green than typical zelkova, turning yellow in fall.

Size: 24h x 18w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Rounded

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Zelkova, Musashino Columnar

Zelkova serrata 'Musashino'



Notes: A very narrow-growing tree with tightly upright branches. Cold-hardy, tolerant of drought, heat, and salt. Leaves turn orange to yellow in fall.

Size: 45h x 15w

Growth Rate: Fast

Shape: Columnar

Zone: 5

Tolerance

Alkaline: High

Salt: Med

Drought: High



Zelkova, Wireless

Zelkova serrata



Notes: A dwarf variety with a broad, horizontally-spreading growth habit. Performs in all soil types, drought, and salt conditions. Deep green foliage turns vivid red in fall.

Size: 24h x 18w

Growth Rate: Medium

Shape: Spreading

Zone: 4

Tolerance

Alkaline: Med

Salt: Med

Drought: High

Common Name	Botanical Name	Image Credit
Amur Corktree	Phellodendron amurense	Patrick Breen, Oregon State University, Bugwood.org
Birch, River	Betula occidentalis	John Phelan, Wikipedia.org
Catalpa, Western	Catalpa speciosa	Richard Webb, Bugwood.org
Elm, American	Ulmus americana	Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
Elm, Lacebark	Ulmus parvifolia	Michasia Dowdy, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Ginkgo	Ginkgo biloba	Richard Webb, Bugwood.org
Ginkgo, Goldspire	Ginkgo Biloba 'Goldspire'	The Tree Farm
Goldenrain Tree	Koelreuteria paniculata	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Hackberry, Common	Celtis occidentalis	Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org
Hawthorn, Cockspur	Crataegus crusgalli	T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org
Hawthorn, Green	Crataegus viridis	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Hawthorn, Washington	Crataegus phaenopyrum	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Honeylocust	Gleditsia triacanthos	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Juniper, Eastern Redcedar	Juniperus virginiana	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Juniper, Rocky Mountain	Juniperus scopulorum	Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service (retired), Bugwood.org
Juniper, Utah	Juniperus osteosperma	Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org
Kentucky Coffeetree	Gymnocladus dioicus	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
London Planetree	Platanus x acerifolia	Tom DeGomez, University of Arizona, Bugwood.org
Maple, Bigtooth	Acer grandidentatum	Cory Maylett, Wikipedia.org
Maple, Tatarian	Acer tataricum	Vanessa Richins Myers, About.com, Bugwood.org
Maple, Tatarian Hot Wings	Acer tataricum 'Garann'	Vanessa Richins Myers, About.com, Bugwood.org
Maple, Trident	Acer buergerianum	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus montanus	Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service (retired), Bugwood.org
Mountain Mahogany, Curlleaf	Cercocarpus ledifolius	Vanessa Richins Myers, About.com, Bugwood.org
Oak, Bur	Quercus macrocarpa	Jason Sharman, Vitalitree, Bugwood.org
Oak, Chinkapin	Quercus muehlenbergii	Jason Sharman, Vitalitree, Bugwood.org
Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin	Quercus prinoides	dogtooth77, https://www.flickr.com/photos/53817483@N00/7963667526/
Oak, Kindred Spirit	Quercus x warei 'Nadler'	Verbeek's Farm & Garden Centre Inc.
Oak, Shumard	Quercus shumardii	Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org
Oak, Turkey	Quercus cerris	Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org
Parrotia, Persian	Parrotia persica	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Pine, Austrian	Pinus nigra	Bill Cook, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org
Pine, Bosnian	Pinus heldreichii	University of Utah, facilities.utah.edu
Pine, Bristlecone	Pinus longaeva or aristata	Mary Ellen (Mel) Harte, Bugwood.org
Pine, Limber	Pinus flexilis	Tom DeGomez, University of Arizona, Bugwood.org
Pine, Pinyon	Pinus edulis	Tom DeGomez, University of Arizona, Bugwood.org
Pine, Scotch	Pinus sylvestris	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Pine, Single-leaf Pinyon	Pinus monophylla	By Famartin - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0
Redbud, Western	Cercis occidentalis	Vanessa Richins Myers, About.com, Bugwood.org
Rubber Tree, Hardy	Eucommia ulmoides	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Smoketree, American	Cotinus obovatus	Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org
Tupelo, Black	Nyssa sylvatica	John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Zelkova	Zelkova serrata	Richard Webb, Bugwood.org
Zelkova, City Sprite	Zelkova serrata 'JFS-KW1' PP 20996	Louisville Trees Nursery
Zelkova, Musashino Columnar	Zelkova serrata 'Musashino'	Utah State University Extension, Botanical Center
Zelkova, Wireless	Zelkova serrata	By Sten - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0