

Trees and Shrubs for Estes Park

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Presented by Estes Valley Community Garden

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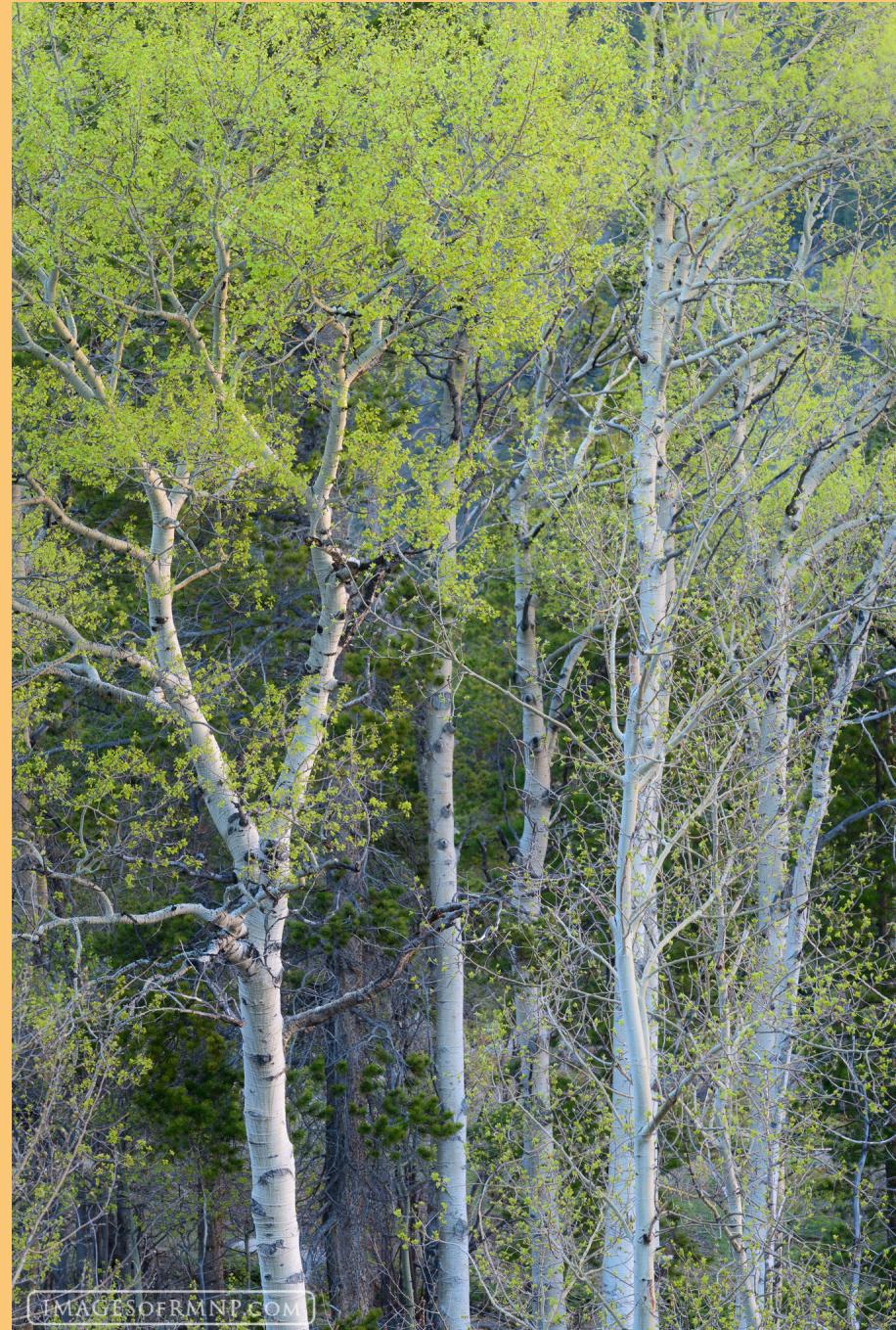
Trees and Shrubs



For Estes Park

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Native Conifers



We live in mixed pine, spruce, juniper forest, with subalpine fir generally above 9000'

Ponderosa Pine

*Pinus
ponderosa*

The Other Native Evergreens Common in Our Area

Douglas Fir

Engelman Spruce

Rocky Mountain Juniper



Blue Spruce

Lodgepole Pine

Subalpine Fir



The Contorted Pine

The name **Lodgepole pine** may have come from the native Americans who prized the long straight poles for tepees and lodges.

Early explores also prized the straight poles for cabins and fences.

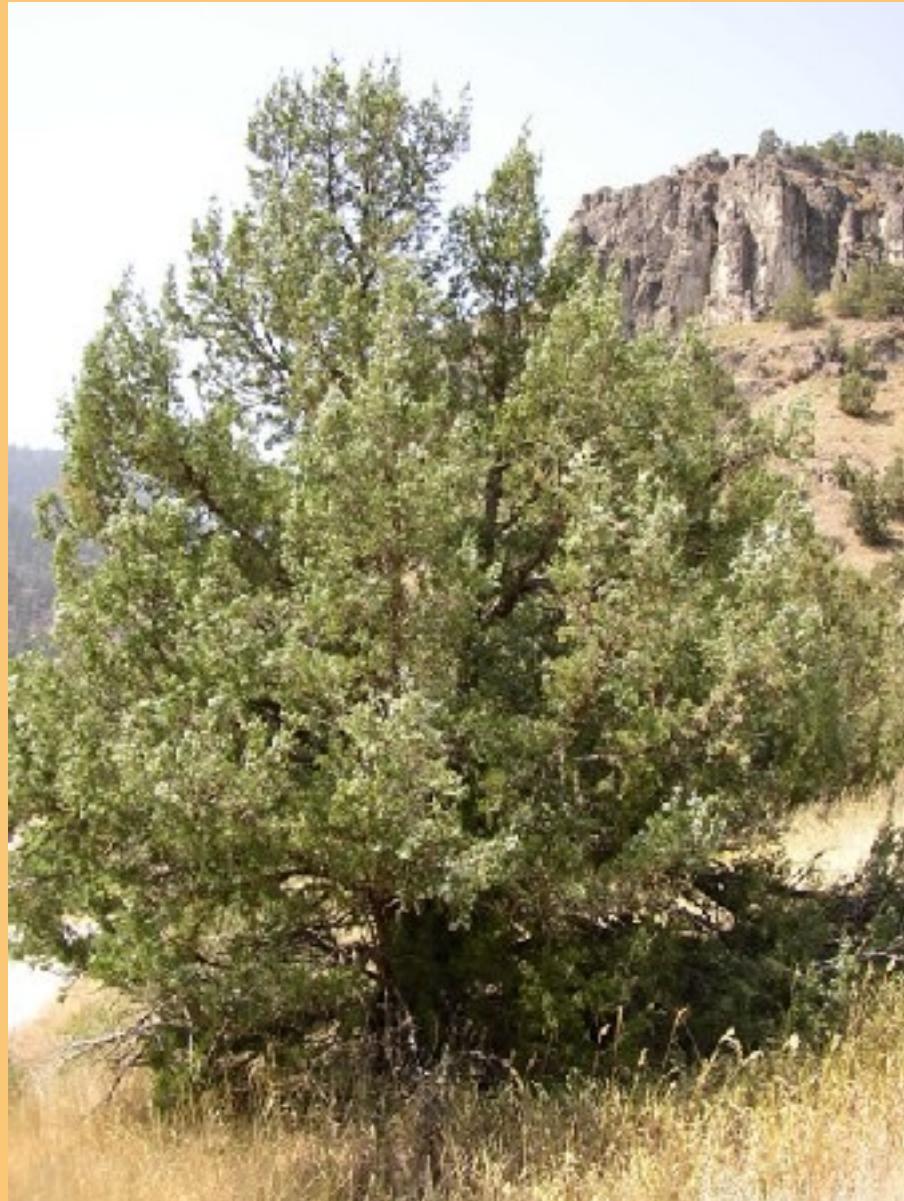
However, if you take a close look at the needles, you'll notice that they twist, hence the Latin species name, *contorta*. The twisted, or contorted pine.

Lodgepole Pine
Pinus contorta



Rocky Mountain Juniper

Juniperus scopulorum



Juniperus scopulorum in its wild form and 3 selections, or 'civilized' forms.

Limber Pine

Pinus flexilis

Both the common name, limber, and the Latin name *flexilis* refer to the tough flexible twigs and twisted nature.

Limber Pine can live more than 1000 years old, the oldest around 1600.

They can be tall and straight, or short and twisted.

They produce edible pine nuts, eaten by some rodents and birds.





Pinecone of Limber pine

Limber pine

Limber Pine are in the 5 needle white pine family of pines.

There are 9 species of 5 needle white pines, in US, 8 in the western US, one more in the east.

Bristlecone pine are also 5 needle pine.

Bristlecone and Limber pines look similar but have some differences. Bristlecone have small white dots on the needles. Bristlecone may not be in RMNP, but are on Mt. Evans, just a short distance to the south.



Bristlecone Pine, left, with resin specks.
Limber Pine lack resin specks.



Large Bristlecone Pine Near Estes Park Post Office.

There is also a row of Bristlecone planted along Elkhorn Avenue in front of Town Hall.

Native Deciduous Trees



Aspen
Narrow Leaf Cottonwood +8000'
Lanceleaf Cottonwood -7500'
Plains Cottonwood
Box elder
Mountain Ash
American Plum
Thin Leaf Alder
Western River Birch

Thinleaf Alder and Western River Birch



Similar in form, these multi stem small trees grow in clumps near creeks and rivers.



Mountain Ash

Sorbus scopulina



Acer glabrum



Rocky Mountain Maple *Acer glabrum*

Rocky Mountain
native common in
RMNP and
surrounding areas.

Bright red buds
and twig ends in
winter.

Native habitat is
along streams and
moister areas.

JLS



Native Shrubs

Rocky Mountain Maple
Currents (many Ribes)
Sagebrush
Rabbitbrush
Cinquefoil (potentilla)
Serviceberry
Mountain Mahogany
Twin Berry Honeysuckle

Wild rose
Boulder raspberry
Common Juniper (bush)
Green Chokecherry
Willow (many)
Mountain Ninebark
Colorado Red Twig Dogwood
Three Leaf sumac

Green
Chokecherry



Mountain Ninebark



UGA1212025

Green Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana

Near water treatment plant on Mall Road

You occasionally see people pick the berries late summer to make jam or syrup.

Unprotected from elk.





Serviceberry
Amelanchier
Blueberry of the west

Red Twig Dogwood
Cornus sericea



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Currant Family (Ribes)

Alpine Currant
Buffalo Currant

Wax Currant
Clove Currant



© Robert Perry

Fruiting currants

Black, White, Red

Gooseberries



Non-Native Trees

Apple fruiting
Crab Apple
Hackberry
Hawthorns
Green Ash-Downtown
Canada Red Chokecherry
Burr Oak (east side of Fair Grnd)
Maple 'Hotwings'
Bristlecone Pine (Mt Evans)
Elkhorn ave Town Hall
Silver Popular
Kentucky Coffee Tree



Burr Oak

“Wild” Apples by the Roadside?

Are apples native to Colorado? Nope! They are native to central Asia.

Then why do they seem to grow in random places here along the roads?

There are at least a half dozen roadside apple trees in both the highway 34 and 36 canyons, one near the National Park S. entrance, and one up in Fern Canyon, among others.

How does this happen? These likely started by someone tossing their apple core. Most of these bloom in spring and do produce small fruit from time to time. Once established, they do well on their own.



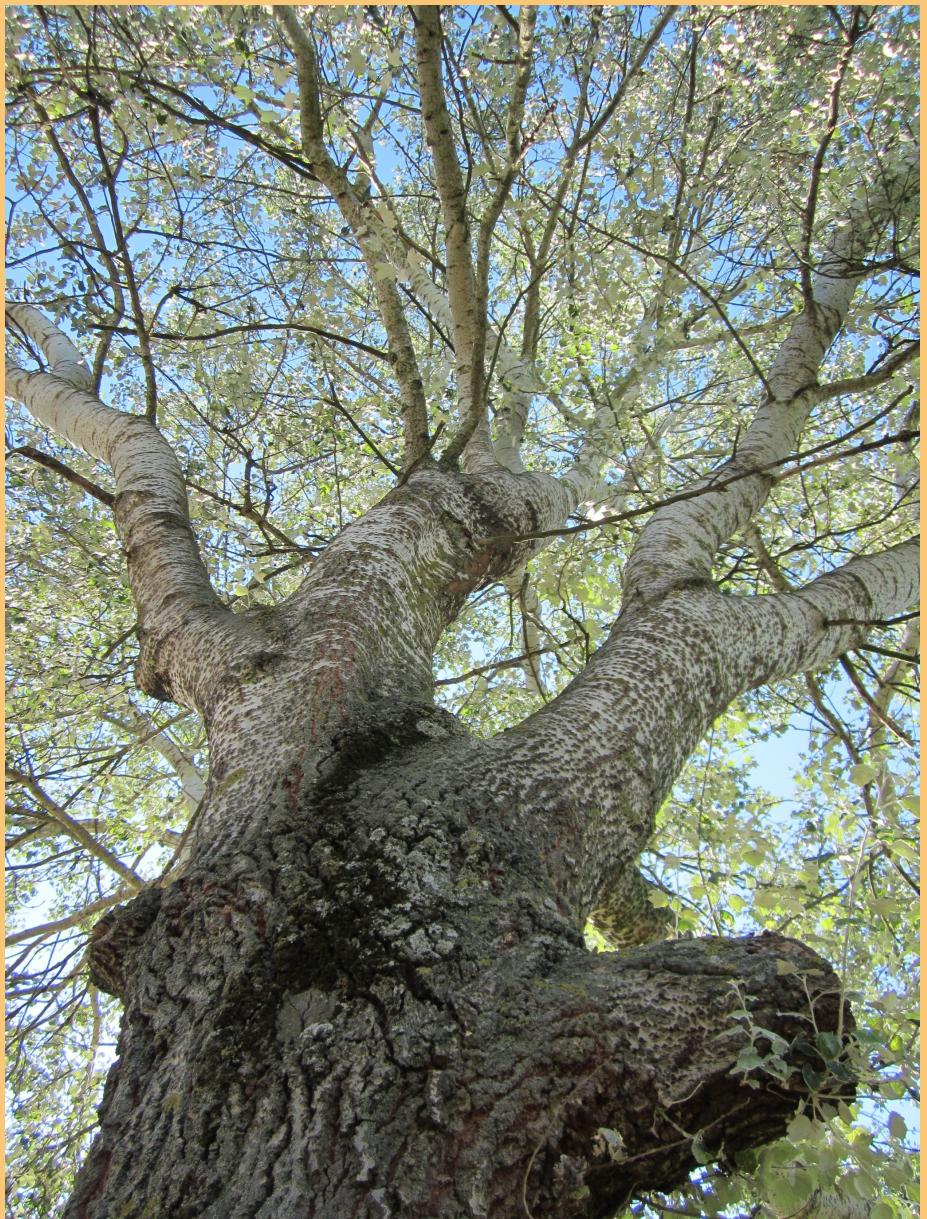
Many varieties of crab apple and some regular fruiting apples grow here and are well adapted to our climate.

They have beautiful blooms in white, red, purple, pink, and nice fall color.

Seek fireblight resistant apples since this disease exists in this area and is detrimental to the tree.



Silver Poplar & Green Ash



Tatarian Maple 'Hotwings'

Selected from a seed grow out at a Fort Collins wholesale nursery.



2016
Plant
Select
Winner



Non-native shrubs

Elderberry
Barberry
Siberian Pea Shrub
Russian Sage
Junipers (many varieties)
Cotoneasters
Apache Plume
Mockorange
Potentilla
Lilac
Roses
Spirea (many)
White snowberry



Apache Plume

Elderberry

Wild elderberry is common in RMNP.

Sambucus pubens
Below



There are many selections of
Elderberry

Cutleaf Golden, center



Siberian Peashrub

Hedge around Twin Owls Motor Lodge

Lovely yellow flowers in spring. Pea family.
Nitrogen fixer.

Very drought hardy.
Grows without supplemental water in Estes Park.

Forms a fordable thorny hedge.

Potentilla

There are many selections for size, shape, and habit. Flower colors in yellow, pink, and white. There is also a spreading form.



Shrubs The Elk Don't Eat

Many are strongly scented or have stickers

Rabbitbrush, Barberry, Russian Sage,
Juniper, Potentilla



Russian Sage, above.

Barberry, left.

The Case of the Witch's Broom



Clusters of dense growth on conifers are common throughout the Rocky Mountains.

They are caused by diseases, insects, or genetic mutations and often look like a nest.

They are also the source of some of our most choice and beautiful dwarf conifers





Some Witch's Brooms can be grafted or propagated. They maintain their dense form and become miniature conifers for landscaping and rock gardens.



Globe Spruce

Wider than tall at this age.

After many years, globe spruce will begin to put out a leader.

This spruce can be pruned to maintain its “globe” shape.

Fruit bearing plants for Estes Park

Trees

Apple

Tart Cherry

Plum (maybe some)

Shrubs

Serviceberry (or small tree)

Currants (Red, black, white)

Gooseberries

Rhubarb (elk don't eat)

(Plant N side for later blooming)



Dolgo Crab Apple

Dolgo is exceptionally hardy—to 40 below. It blooms over a long period of time, so it produces fruit most years.

Planted around Key Bank.

Dolgo is fire blight resistant.

It makes a good pollinator.

The fruits are about 1" in diameter. Small for apple, large for a crab apple.

Tart and tasty as a sauce or any other cooked apple treat.

It has nice yellow to orange fall color.



Planting Considerations

Space Soil (low OM)
Water Dry Winters



Other Considerations

While it's ideal to plant in spring before or just as a bush is starting to leaf out, Front Range nurseries are at least 3 weeks ahead of our season, so Front Range nursery plants are out of sync with our climate. Bare root plants online.

Our soil is very different from Front Range soils. Our soils lack clays and organic matter, and thus lack the water holding capacity Front Range soils have. So, we can water like crazy a new tree or shrub, and the water just runs out into the porous native soil of decomposed gravel.

When planting, plan to add organic matter to hold water. A slow watering system like drip irrigation is helpful to keep soils moist while new plantings get established.

A tree needs about one year for each inch of diameter to overcome transplant shock. In my opinion, smaller trees and shrubs establish more easily.

Fences for Animal Protection

Near invisible fences are becoming common. The plastics are durable and long lasting.



A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, thin grass. Behind it is a dense stand of tall evergreen trees, likely blue spruce, with their characteristic blue-green needles. Interspersed among these are several deciduous trees that have turned yellow, indicating the start of autumn. The sky is a pale, overcast white.

The End