



General Guidelines For Trees

What is a tree?

The rules of dendrology (the study of trees) state that a tree may be defined as a woody plant that at maturity is 13 ft in height, with a single trunk at least 3 inches in diameter at breast height (4½ feet), unbranched for at least several feet above the ground and having a more or less definite crown. Shrubs, in contrast, are smaller and usually exhibit several erect, spreading, or prostrate stems with a general bushy appearance. There are exceptions.

Trees listed in this guide are recommended by the Lander Urban Forest Council. Recommendations are based upon first hand experience with trees that have lived or are currently living and doing well in the area. Some trees shown are not recommended, but do well in Lander. The problems with these trees are listed in the text.

Experimentation with uncommon species is encouraged, though be aware of the limitations of the species planted as well as the planting area.

The Lander Urban Forest Council is interested in hearing of trees or shrubs that are doing well in Fremont County and are not listed in this guide. Contact an Urban Forest Council Member if you know of such trees or shrubs. A council member can be contacted at the Lander Parks and Recreation office at 332-4647.

Growth rate, height and spread estimates often assume growth in ideal conditions. Many of the tree and shrub species included here are from milder climates and may not attain the growth rates, heights and spreads listed.

Because “litter-free” landscapes are now highly desired, trees, shrubs, and ground covers that do not make a “mess” are preferred. These seedless, fruitless, or cottonless plants are typically asexually propagated male clones. Virtually all of the dioecious plants (species that have male and



female flowers on separate plants) are primarily wind-pollinated, and with almost all of these, the male trees produce copious amounts of allergenic, airborne pollen. This has become of great concern to the medical world. The instances of pollen caused allergies has increased dramatically in the past few years. Give serious thought to NOT planting “cotton-less cottonwood” “seedless ash” etc. The worst offenders are: cottonwood, Russian–olive, juniper (several varieties) and willows.

Varieties and cultivars are too numerous to include in this publication. Consult your local Master Gardeners and nurseries for information on varieties and cultivars suited to this area.

Only the most common insect and disease problems known to be associated with locally grown tree and shrub species are mentioned here. Consult local Extension Agents or Master Gardeners for further information on insect and disease problems.

This guide has attempted to include as many “native” species as possible. “Native” is loosely defined, in this guide, as a species known to grow wild in Fremont County or surrounding Wyoming counties.

According to the USDA we are rated zone 4. For practical purposes most plants rated at zone 4 can be grown in our area if appropriate soils are provided. In some areas of Lander plants rated as zone 5 and occasionally those rated higher will survive.

Because of altitude variations within the city, proximity of large masses that retain heat, areas protected from or exposed to the wind and directional exposure (i.e. southern or northern), significant microclimates exist in and around our area. Also, because of our topography, temperature inversions do occur in the area. While in the lowest (frostiest) areas of Lander, we can generally expect 100+ days of growing season, frost can and has occurred every month of the year.

In this booklet we have tried to identify those trees and shrubs that may only grow in the most temperate microclimates in the area. To identify whether or not you are located in one of those areas, ask your neighbors about their experience with plants.