

# TREE SELECTION

Choosing a tree for your landscape is an investment decision and it is critical to consider diversity, the planting site, characteristics and needs of the tree you select. Diversity refers to the different types of trees planted in a neighborhood or community. A more diverse community forest reduces the chance of pests and disease wiping out many trees of the same species. Site issues include access to water, space for the tree to grow above and below the soil, sunlight and drainage. When choosing your tree you will be interested in rate of growth, hardiness and drought tolerance for the Front Range, size, shape, native or nonnative, pest and maintenance issues. The following link has illustrations to assist you. [www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/](http://www.arborday.org/trees/rightTreeAndPlace/)

## *Town of Erie Approved Tree List*

The Town of Erie Approved Tree List, at

[www.erieco.gov/documentcenter/view/1089](http://www.erieco.gov/documentcenter/view/1089)

extensive and was designed for trees selected under the Residential and Home Owners Associations (HOA) Tree Incentive cost share programs and trees for public lands. These trees do well under the conditions along the Front Range. However, residents may plant trees not on the list if the tree meets your needs.

## *Trees Suitable for the Front Range*

Colorado State Forest Service has information on tree selection at

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/pages/tree-maintenance.html>

At the link above, go to the topic, Additional Information for Selecting, Planting and Caring for Trees to view documents available from this site, including:

- Recommended Trees for Colorado Front Range Communities (contains a list of trees to avoid on the Front Range)
- Native Trees for Colorado Landscapes
- Drought Tolerant Trees for Colorado Landscapes

## *Trees for Edible Landscaping*

If you are interested in trees for edible landscaping, the following suggestions work along the Front Range. Be aware that fruit debris on ground attracts wildlife and insects.

- Plums
- Pears
- Apples



Plant these trees on North side so that the trees don't warm up too early in spring:

- Reliance Peach
- Montmorency Cherry
- Nanking Cherry
- Apricots

Link to [www.denverext.colostate.edu/fruittrees.html](http://www.denverext.colostate.edu/fruittrees.html) for more information on fruit trees. For specific varieties that are reliable for the Front Range, link to [www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4dmg/VegFruit/Fruits/fetish.htm](http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CoopExt/4dmg/VegFruit/Fruits/fetish.htm)

### **Tree Selection**

When choosing a tree, look for one with a good root system, no wounds on the trunk and a strong form with well attached branches. Bare root trees with no soil are usually small trees. Rootballed trees have roots in soil held in place by burlap, fabric or may be in a wire basket. Container grown trees have roots and soil in a container. A good tree has a trunk that bends as roots are sufficiently anchored; a poor quality tree has a trunk that does not bend and the root system shifts in the container soil.

#### **Overgrown for root system**



"Photo by Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida."

#### **Loose root ball**



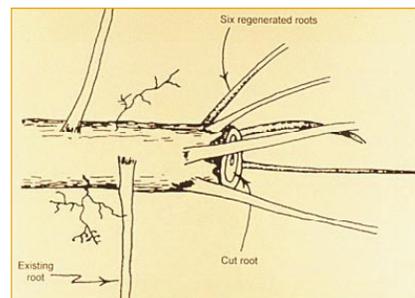
"Photo by Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida."

#### **Root-bound**



"Photo by Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida."

#### **Root shaving**



"Illustration by Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida."