

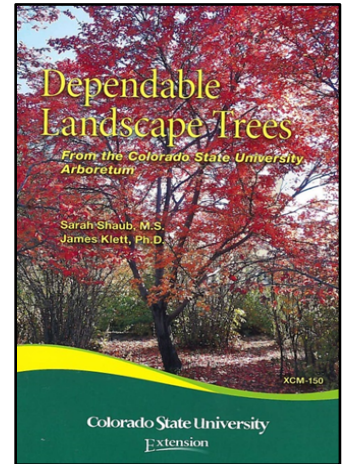
Tree E-News

Colorado State Forest Service

August 2014

New Tree Book

From alpine to desert ecosystems, Colorado has a unique and very diverse tree growing environment. Native trees like narrowleaf cottonwood, aspen, pinyon pine, and Colorado blue spruce consistently perform well in their native habitat, and often perform superbly in urban settings near their native range. Early settlers to Colorado would go up to the hills or down to the streams and dig up trees to bring home and plant in their yards and along their streets. Mountain communities like Aspen and Lake City, with their narrowleaf cottonwood lined streets are examples of natives meeting that need for urban trees. Other towns and cities have elected to plant trees on their streets that come from another part of the country but can still perform in poor soils, droughty conditions, and cold climates. The American elm was a good example of that diverse and tolerant tree. However, the American elm was too successful and was quickly overplanted in many communities. Then Dutch elm disease arrived in America and wiped out miles of elm-lined streets. From that disaster we learned the importance of tree diversity, and now preach the message of not planting tree monocultures in our communities. In a perfect world, no tree species (i.e., ash, poplar, pine) should make up more than ten percent of the total tree population. With the arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB) in this state, we are staring at another tree calamity. Many Colorado communities have already stopped planting ash trees.



So what tree should one plant instead of ash? A new book published this past spring has some answers. 'Dependable Landscape Trees' written by Dr. James Klett of the CSU Horticulture Department and CSU graduate student, Sarah Shaub, has over 240 pages of information on deciduous and evergreen trees. The tree information contained in this book is based on ten years of research on trees planted at the CSU arboretum located at the W.D. Holley Plant Environmental Research Center. The book has color pictures and information on over 200 deciduous and evergreen trees. Data on each tree's height, width, growth habit, flowers, fruit, fall color, pests, landscape uses, and potential problems is recorded in a table format. In addition, there is a brief description and narrative on the tree's performance at the arboretum. There are appendices that list trees by flower color, fruit color, fall color, landscape uses (e.g., narrow, confined areas, shade, wildlife etc.), mature plant size, and more.

Successfully growing trees in Colorado requires persistence, knowledge, and some luck. Adding this book to your library will take care of the knowledge portion of that formula.

Upcoming Events

August 8: Regular CTC board meeting. The exact meeting location is still to be determined, possibly Broomfield. Contact Vince at vince.urbina@colostate.edu for more information.

September 18: Regular Front Urban Forestry Council meeting in conjunction with the South Platte Urban Waters Partnership at Barr Lake. At this meeting there will be a Riparian Area Restoration Workshop. Seating is limited for the workshop, so please RSVP to Riparian918@gmail.com by September 8th.

September 25 – 26: Annual meeting for the International Society of Arboriculture – Rocky Mountain Chapter at the Denver Marriott South in Lone Tree. There is discounted early bird registration, but that will end on August 8th. More information and registration forms are available at www.isarmc.org.

October 8 – 9: Annual meeting of the Northern Rockies Tree School in Cody WY. Details are coming and will be found at the ISA-RMC website www.isarmc.org