

# SPRING FLOWERING TREES FOR COLORADO LANDSCAPE

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## *Types of Flowering Trees:*

- Fruit Trees - Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, Plums
- Crabapples
- Hawthorns
- Ornamental Pears/Plums
- Horsechestnuts
- Other - Goldenrain Tree, Tree Lilac, Redbud, Serviceberry, Smoke Tree

## *Fruit Trees*

### Apple (*Malus* spp.)

- Pink buds open to white flowers.
- Many varieties to choose from including Gala, Red Delicious and Honeycrisp™.
- Apple trees need another variety to produce fruit.
- 15' to 20' height, 10' to 18' spread; max. elevation 8,000 ft.

### Chinese Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* 'Chinese')

- An early-bearing variety that is ideal for difficult climates prone to late spring frosts.
- Mildly fragrant, early white blooms open from pink buds.
- Fruit is medium in size and sweet. Self-fertile.
- 15' height, 10' spread; max. elevation 6,000 ft.

### Montmorency Cherry (*Prunus cerasus* 'Montmorency')

- The finest sour or pie cherry. A heavy annual bearer, the average yield for a mature tree is 36–44 pints; self-pollinating.
- A vigorous tree with upright, spreading branches and a rounded crown, it bears fruit at a young age.
- Late bloom means a more dependable production of fruit; ripens in June or early July.
- 15' height and 10' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.

### Redhaven Peach (*Prunus persica* 'Redhaven')

- Developed in Michigan, this variety has become the gold standard for peaches, replacing Elberta as the most versatile and widely grown.
- Regular high yields make this one of the best home garden peaches.
- Vulnerable to late spring damage due to early bloom time, ripens mid-August.
- 15' height and 12' spread; max. elevation 7,000 ft.

### Stanley Plum (*Prunus domestica* 'Stanley')

- One of the best tasting and most reliable plums. The fruit is sweet, juicy and firm. The high sugar content makes them ideal for drying.

- Blooms in late spring, mostly self-fertile, but benefits from a pollinator. Bears huge crops.
- Dark blue fruit with yellow flesh.
- 15' height and 12' spread; max. elevation 8,500 ft.

### Crabapples

#### Profusion Crab (*Malus* × *moerlandsii* 'Profusion')

- Named for its abundance of magenta pink blooms, this tree has excellent disease resistance.
- Foliage emerges purple, turns bronzy-green in summer. Fall color is a blend of yellow, orange and green.
- ½" diameter ruby-red fruit persists through winter.
- 18' height, 18' spread; max. elevation 7,000 ft.



#### Adams Crab (*Malus* 'Adams')

- Carmine-red buds open to single pink blooms.
- Glossy red ½" diameter fruit, persists through the winter. Hardy to -30° F.
- New leaves are green with a red tint, retaining a slight tint once mature. Fall color is orange-red.
- 15' to 25' height, 15' to 20' spread; max. elevation 6,000 ft.



#### Brandywine Crab (*Malus* 'Brandywine')

- Opening from deep rose-red buds, masses of fragrant, double pink rose-like blooms appear in mid-spring.
- Flowers are followed by large, chartreuse crabapples (to 1" diameter) that mature in fall.
- Emerging brick-red in the spring, the leaves mature to dark green with a reddish tint in summer; fall color is reddish orange to purple.
- 25' height, 20' spread; max. elevation 6,500 ft.



#### Centurion Crab (*Malus* 'Centzam')

- Very cold hardy flower buds burst open in early spring to masses of rose-red blossoms.
- Glossy, cherry red fruits, ½" in diameter, mature in late summer.
- Disease resistant, one of the best *Malus* cultivars available; Yellow-orange fall color.
- 25' height, 15' to 20' spread; max elevation 6,500 ft.



#### Indian Magic Crab (*Malus* 'Indian Magic')

- Red buds open to single pink flowers – slightly darker than 'Indian Summer'.
- Dark green foliage turns brilliant golden-orange in the fall.
- Small glossy, red fruit changes to rosy-orange and remains on tree all winter providing food for wildlife.
- 15' height, 15' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.



#### Indian Summer Crab (*Malus* 'Indian Summer')

- Foliage emerges reddish-purple, turning to medium green in summer; fall color is orange and yellow.
- Tolerates cold, shifts in temperature and brisk winds; disease resistant.
- Rosy pink-red flowers are followed by persistent ¾" bright red fruit.
- 15' height, 15' spread; max. elevation 8,000 ft.



### Louisa Crab (*Malus* 'Louisa')

- A weeping pink flowering crabapple. Branches cascade to the ground.
- Glossy dark green leaves turn to green-yellow-orange in fall. Resistant to disease and Japanese Beetles.
- Fruit is a persistent ½" diameter crabapple, yellow with a rose blush.
- 12' to 15' height and spread; max. elevation 6,500 ft.



### Prairifire Crab (*Malus* 'Prairifire')

- Intense, brilliant red-pink flowers; disease resistant.
- Purple-red leaves turn to green with a red cast; orange fall color.
- Small dark red-purple fruit persists through the winter.
- 20' height, 20' spread; max. elevation 8,000 ft.



### Radiant Crab (*Malus* 'Radiant')

- Foliage emerges red-purple, turning to a bronzy-green.
- Dark red flower buds open to single, dark pink flowers.
- Bright red fruits persist into winter, providing food for birds. Hardy to -30° F.
- 15' height, 15' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.



### Spring Snow Crab (*Malus* × 'Spring Snow')

- Pink buds open to single, fragrant white flowers, which cover the tree in the spring.
- This crabapple does not bear fruit!
- 'Spring Snow' was discovered growing in Parkside, Saskatchewan in 1963.
- 20' height, 15' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.



### Sargent Tina Crab (*Malus Toringo* subsp. *Sargentii* 'Tina')

- Bright yellow stamens protrude from profuse bright red buds.
- Fragrant, single white flowers mature into small ¼" diameter red fruit. Profuse bloom often occurs only in alternate years.
- Smallest available crabapple, excellent patio tree, fits in small areas.
- 6' height, 10' spread; max elevation 7,000 ft.



## Hawthorns

### Toba Hawthorn (*Crataegus* × *mordenensis* 'Toba')

- Flowers are large, double white, fading to pink; very fragrant. One of the hardiest Hawthorns available.
- Dark green leaves turn yellow in the fall; sharp thorns.
- Fruit is bright red, ½" diameter, persisting into winter. Develops an interesting twisted trunk with age.
- 15' height, 12' spread; deer resistant; max. elevation 8,500 ft.
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### Russian Hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua*)

- Horizontal branching and irregular growth habit presents an interesting silhouette.
- Yellow-green to golden branches. Yellow to orange fall color.
- Showy white flowers turn into abundant ½" cherry-like dark red fruits that are attractive to birds.



- 15 to 25' height, 20 to 25' spread; deer resistant; max. elevation 7,000 ft.

#### Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli* var. *inermis*)

- Clusters of white flowers appear in late May followed by ½" bright red fruit.
- Fall color ranges from orange-red to purplish-red.
- Branches tend to have a horizontal growth habit; thornless.
- 20 to 30' height, 20 to 35' spread; deer resistant; max. elevation 8,000 ft.



#### Crimson Cloud Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata* 'Superba')

- Unique red, single flowers with a white star-shaped center.
- Eye-catching display of glossy red fruit persists into winter and is favored by birds; thornless.
- Dark glossy green foliage with no notable fall color.
- 20' height, 20' spread; deer resistant; max. elevation 6,000 ft.



#### Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*)

- Reddish-purple leaves emerge in spring, then turn dark green as they are joined by a dense display of white flowers.
- Thorny, dense upright growth habit. Can be pruned into an effective barrier hedge.
- In fall, the leaves turn orange, scarlet or purple. Red berries persist into winter.
- 20' height, 12' spread; deer resistant; max. elevation 7,500 ft.



#### Winter King Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King')

- This small tree has very few thorns and shiny green leaves turning purple to scarlet in the fall.
- Clusters of white flowers 2" across in early spring.
- Small, bright red fruit persists throughout the winter. Silver-gray bark exfoliates with age.
- 30' height, 20' spread; deer resistant; max. elevation 7,000 ft.



### Ornamental Pears

#### Autumn Blaze Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Autumn Blaze')

- Considered one of the hardiest cultivars of Callery pear.
- Fragrant clusters of white flowers in the spring. Small, inedible fruit.
- Dark green glossy leaves turn to bright crimson red in the fall, earlier than other ornamental pears.
- 30' height, 25' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.

#### Chanticleer®/Cleveland Select Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Glens Form')

- Evenly branched tree with a cone-shaped growth habit.
- This tree typically does not do well in irrigated lawn areas.
- White flowers, followed by glossy green foliage, turning brilliant orange-red in the fall; "fruitless".
- 35' height, 15' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.
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#### Jack Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Jaczam')

- A dwarf, rounded variety for smaller home landscapes.
- Completely covered in showy white flowers in spring before leaves emerge.

- Leaves are deep green and glossy with a golden to red fall color.
- 15' to 20' height and spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.

### Ornamental Plums

#### Newport Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Newport')

- A colorful, small tree with reddish purple foliage.
- White-pink flowers in spring, this plum seldom sets fruit.
- Very sensitive to over watering, especially in turf areas; can be susceptible to peach/plum borer.
- 15' height, 10' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.

#### Mt. St. Helens Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Mt. St. Helens')

- 'Mt. St. Helens' is a sport of 'Newport' with a stronger, straighter growing trunk, vigorous growth and earlier spring leaf out.
- The leaves are larger and a richer purple, flowers are light pink.
- This very hardy ornamental plum performs well where climates are extreme. Some trees produce small plum-like fruit.
- 20' height and spread; max. elevation 6,000 ft.

#### Princess Kay Plum (*Prunus nigra* 'Princess Kay')

- A Colorado State Plant Select® program selection in 2000.
- Double white flowers appear before the foliage. Flowers have a very pleasant fragrance
- Open, oval form, green leaves turn red-purple in fall. Bark is almost black and cherry tree-like.
- 12' height, 10' spread; max. elevation 7,000 ft.

### Horsechestnut

#### Red Horsechestnut (*Aesculus × carnea* 'Briotti')

- A tree with a round-headed crown and unique, large dark green leaves.
- 10" rosy-crimson flower plumes April-May.
- Distinctive, thorny fruit typical of the species. Smaller variety, great for tighter garden areas
- 40' height, 30' spread; max. elevation 6,000 ft.

#### Ft. McNair Horsechestnut (*Aesculus × carnea* 'Ft. McNair')

- All of the same characteristics of Red Horsechestnut.
- Blossoms are upright 10" panicles of bright pink flowers with a yellow throat.
- More durable Than Red Horsechestnut - less susceptible to leaf scorch.
- 40' height, 30' spread; max. elevation 6,000 ft.

#### Bauman's Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum* 'Baumannii')

- 'Baumannii' is an old, double-flowered cultivar that was first identified in Geneva, Switzerland in 1819.
- It differs from the species in that it has a later and longer bloom, double white flowers, no fruit and a taller and narrower habit.
- Leaves unfold light yellow, changing to dark green. Hardy to -40° F.
- 40' to 50' height, 30' spread; max. elevation 6,000 ft.

## Other Flowering Trees

### Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* × *grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance')

- Fringe-like white flowers in spring are followed by small red fruit that ripen in June; fruit is favored by many species of birds.
- The oval shaped leaves emerge coppery-red, becoming rich green.
- Outstanding orange-red fall color.
- 15' height, 10' spread; max. elevation 8,500 ft.

### Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

- Narrow irregular crowned tree with large light green heart-shaped leaves.
- Adaptable to most conditions, tolerates dry soils well; 12"-18" long, thin seed pods persist into winter.
- Fragrant white flowers borne in 4" to 8" long upright panicles late June.
- Mature height 50 to 60', spread 30 to 40'; max. elevation 7,000 ft.



### Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

- Beautiful purplish-pink blooms cover the tree in spring.
- Attractive rich green heart shaped leaves.
- *Needs protection!* Blooming can be erratic due to spring frosts.
- 20' height, 15' spread; max. elevation 7,500 ft.

### Royal Purple Smoke Tree (*Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple')

- Rich, dark purple leaves last throughout the season.
- Can take on the form of a multi-stem shrub or tree.
- Small purplish pink flowers in airy clusters give it a "smoky" effect.
- 15' height, 10' spread; max elevation 7,500 ft.

### Seven-Son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*)

- Small tree or large shrub; a 2008 Plant Select program selection.
- Fragrant white flowers on seven tiered panicles in mid-late July.
- When flowers drop, vibrant red sepals are revealed, persisting through the fall; exfoliating bark adds winter interest.
- 12' to 20' height, 10' spread; max elevation 6,200 ft.

### Goldenrain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

- A distinctive ornamental tree with large compound leaves that emerge red then turn to dark green.
- Long 12 to 15" bright yellow flower panicles in mid-summer.
- Papery "Chinese-lantern" like pods appear in July, persisting through November.
- 30' height, 25' to 30' spread; max elevation 7,000 ft.



### Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk')

- Blooms prolifically with 10" to 18" panicles of creamy white flowers in early to mid-June.
- One of the latest lilacs to bloom, it is a small tree with an oval crown. 'Ivory Silk' is an improved cultivar.
- Young branches have a glossy dark red-brown to cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark.
- 15' to 25' height, 15' to 20' spread; max elevation 8,500 ft.

