

Guide to Cottonwoods in Wyoming

Narrowleaf Cottonwood

Populus angustifolia

Height: 30-50', Spread 20-30', Hardy to 8,000 ft. Dense upright oval to pyramidal tree. Will sucker profusely! (there is one called 'Creekside' that has been grafted to *P. acuminata* rootstock (lanceleaf cottonwood) to prevent suckering. Has long narrow, willow-like leaves.

Plains Cottonwood

Populus deltoides ssp. Monilifera

Height: 60-80', Spread 50-60' Hardy to 7,000 ft. **Wyoming State Tree!** Native, big, fast growing and hardy. A broad, irregularly rounded canopy with coarse, spreading branches. Smooth grayish brown bark becomes deeply grooved and dark gray as it ages. Rich green leaves have a wide triangular shape. Golden yellow in fall. There is a selection of *sargentii* known as "Straight Plains," (*Populus sargentii* 'Jeronimus') that was selected for a straighter growth habit. It reaches 60' to 80' high and 40-50' wide.

Eastern Cottonwood

Populus deltoides 'Siouxland'

Height 75 to 100', Spread: 50-75'. Hardy large tree with a clear bole and an open spreading crown resulting in a somewhat vase-shaped form. Not quite as adapted to the High Plains as the sub-species: *Populus deltoides ssp. monilifera* (*populus sargentii*) see above.

Highland Cottonwood

Populus acuminata x sargentii 'Highland'

Height: 45' – 50', Spread: 20' – 30'. Hardy to 7,000 ft. A smaller and more upright version of the plains cottonwood. Originally from the Cheyenne Horticultural Research Station. A hardy substitute for *P. acuminata* (lanceleaf cottonwood) because it is a cross of *acuminata* and *sargentii*. Has been seen to have problems with canker disease at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.

Lanceleaf Cottonwood

Populus x acuminata

This is a naturally occurring cross between *sargentii* and *angustifolia*. Height 40-60', Spread: 30-40' Hardy to 7,500' ft. An upright rounded tree with dense branching and smooth grayish brown bark that becomes ridged as it matures. Leaves shaped like the head of a spear are shiny green changing to yellow in fall. It can suffer from borers and canker disease.