Commonly Planted Small Deciduous Trees in Lander County
Guidelines For Their Selection
Rodney L. Davis, Extension Educator

Aspen
Reasons to plant- Aspen make very attractive groupings of moderately sized shade trees. White bark and fine textured leaves are attractive.
Reasons to avoid- They can be difficult to establish, may sucker and spread. Subject to a variety of wood and leaf diseases and insect problems especially at lower elevations. They need a constant supply water and will stress under drought conditions.

Black Locust
Reasons to plant- They have very showy cascading clustered flowers. They grow rapidly and are adapted to a wide range of soil types and planting sites.
Reasons to avoid- They are very thorny, twiggy and difficult to maintain. Tend to sucker from the roots. Subject to wind damage.

Cherries and Plums
Reasons to plant- There are a wide selection of flower and foliage colors available as well as variations in size. They require less pruning and maintenance than flowering crabs. They are good choices under power lines. Fruit can benefit wildlife.
Reasons to avoid- Most require well drained soil and do not handle extremes in soil types, moisture or windy sites. They are subject to a number of life threatening diseases. Most will sucker from the roots regularly.

Flowering Crabapples
Reasons to plant- They are very attractive, moderately sized trees with great flower and leaf color choices. Select only fireblight resistant cultivars.
Reasons to avoid- Fruit drop can be very messy. They require lots of pruning to remain healthy and attractive. Fireblight.

Hawthorns
Reasons to plant- A wide variety of sizes and shapes are available. They are generally small to moderate in size and adapted to a wide variety of soil types and sites. Attractive flowers and berries. Be sure and plant fireblight resistant cultivars.
Reasons to avoid- Most species have large thorns. Fireblight.
Horse Chestnut

Reasons to plant- They are attractive moderately sized shade trees. Adapted to all but the most extreme sites. Interesting palmate leaf.

Reasons to avoid- Nuts are considered mildly poisonous and add to ground litter.

Maples

Reasons to plant- Some species (Amur) provide outstanding red fall color, however most turn yellow in the fall.

Reasons to avoid- Species other than those listed may yellow in most non-mountainous soils. Scorch and/or windburn can be a problem in hot, windy sites.

Mountain Ash

Reasons to plant- These are very attractive medium sized trees. The fruit is very showy and useful to wildlife. Adapted to a wide range of soil types.

Reasons to avoid- They are susceptible to fireblight.

Staghorn Sumac

Reasons to plant- These sumacs are multi-branched rough textured small trees. They are drought resistant and produce a rich red foliage in the fall. Tolerant of a wide range of soil types and moisture levels.

Reasons to avoid- They sucker from the roots and can readily spread into unwanted areas.

Russian Olive

Reasons to plant- They are adapted to a very wide range of soil types and planting sites. Many consider their blue-green foliage attractive. Rangy twisted branching habits provide interesting winter shape. Profuse seed production and dense foliage provides good wildlife habitat.

Reasons to avoid- The appearance of new diseases makes future plantings risky. Pollen can be a problem for sensitive individuals. High maintenance. Thorns. May become invasive.

Fact Sheet References
- Feucht, Klett, Wilson, Trees & Shrubs, Small Deciduous Trees, CSU Gardening Series #7.418, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Johnson, Balliete, Hardy, Drought Tolerant and Moderately Salt Tolerant Trees for Northern Nevada, Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet #88-73
## Commonly Planted Small Deciduous Trees*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Disease Resistance</th>
<th>Insect Resistance</th>
<th>Salt Tolerance</th>
<th>Alkali Tolerance (High pH)</th>
<th>Drought Tolerance</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>Populus tremuloides</td>
<td>Short</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Small/medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Locust</td>
<td>Robinia pseudoacacia</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium/ medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherries &amp; Plums Sour Cherry Mayday Tree Various multi-stemmed</td>
<td>Prunus <em>cesar</em>us <em>padus</em> various species</td>
<td>All short</td>
<td>All medium/ high</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>All low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowering Crabapple</td>
<td>Malus <em>species</em></td>
<td>Short/ medium</td>
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<td>Fast</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorns</td>
<td>Crataegus</td>
<td>Long</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Ash</td>
<td>Sorbus <em>aucuparia</em></td>
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<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Medium/ high</td>
<td>Low/ medium</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Olive</td>
<td>Eleagnus <em>angustifolia</em></td>
<td>Short</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Small/ medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staghorn Sumac</td>
<td>Rhus <em>typhina</em></td>
<td>Short</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Small</td>
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## Less Commonly Planted Trees Worth Considering

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Disease Resistance</th>
<th>Insect Resistance</th>
<th>Salt Tolerance</th>
<th>Alkali Tolerance (Low pH)</th>
<th>Drought Tolerance</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horse Chestnut</td>
<td>Aesculus <em>hippocastanum</em></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium/ fast</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium/ low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maples(multi-stemmed) Rocky Mountain Amur</td>
<td>Acer <em>gla</em>brum <em>ginnala</em></td>
<td>All short/ medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>All medium/ high</td>
<td>All high</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>All medium</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This list is not intended to be exclusive. Other choices may survive in specific micro-climates.*