

2025 Arbor Day Seedlings Giveaway Information



Mexican Blue Oak - *Quercus oblongifolia*

Height: 15-30 feet. **Spread:** 15-30 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Low. **Zones:** 7-10.

A medium-sized, evergreen tree native to the mountains of northern Mexico and parts of the SW United States, particularly Arizona.

It is a species of oak characterized by its distinct blue-gray to bluish-green leaves, which are lance-shaped with smooth edges or shallow lobes. The leaves can appear silvery or bluish, giving the tree its name.

Mexican Blue Oak thrives in well-drained, rocky soils, and it prefers a semi-arid climate. It is drought-tolerant once established, making it well-suited for dry environments.

Grand Junction Mimosa - *Albizia julibrissin*



Height: 20-35 feet. **Spread:** 20-30 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun/Part Shade.

Water needs: Moderate. **Zones:** 6-9.

The striking and fluffy, pink, powder puff flower heads of the Mimosa last from June into August, combined with a bipinnate compound dark green leaf that provides a fern like appearance. The sensitive leaflets close at night or when they are touched.

This fast-growing tree is grown in well-drained soils and flowers best in full sun. Tolerates drought, but the best growth occurs with regular watering. An attractive tree that provides a tropical effect, it can be used as a lawn accent in areas where soils are poor or alkaline. Seeds for these trees collected from the state champion mimosa in Grand Junction.



Shantung Maple - *Acer truncatum*

Height: 20-30 feet. **Spread:** 20-30 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun/ Part Shade.

Water needs: Moderate. **Zones:** 4-9.

A small deciduous tree native to northern China, Korea, and the Amur region of Siberia. Featuring a densely branched, rounded crown, it is an excellent choice for patios, small gardens, or as a striking street tree.

The leaves, which are simple and opposite with 5-7 triangular lobes, emerge in a captivating purplish hue, maturing to lush dark green, and transform into a vibrant fall spectacle of yellow, orange, and sometimes purples and reds.

This maple produces clusters of delicate yellow-green flowers and distinctive samaras. Preferring moist, acidic, well-drained soils.



Manzano Maple - *Acer grandidentatum* 'Manzano'

Height: 20-30 feet. **Spread:** 20-30 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun/Partial Shade.

Water needs: Low. **Zones:** 3-8.

The 'Manzano' cultivar of the Bigtooth Maple tree is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree native to the southwest and New Mexico.

The tree is known for its attractive, deeply lobed leaves that turn vibrant shades of red, orange, and yellow in the fall, and for its ability to tolerate drought conditions. 'Manzano' maples have a rounded, spreading canopy and good adaptability to various soil types. They are often used as a landscape tree due to their attractive fall foliage.



Chinese Pistache - *Pistacia chinensis*

Height: 30-35 feet. **Spread:** 20-25 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Low. **Zones:** 6-9

Pest-free and exceptionally drought tolerant small tree, with excellent red, purple, and orange fall color. A logical tree for infertile soils or unirrigated urban sites along streets, in parking medians, or under power lines where it's tough character will ensure its success.



Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba*

Height: 25-50 feet. **Spread:** 25-35 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Moderate. **Zones:** 3-9.

A large, deciduous tree with fan-shaped leaves that turn golden in the fall. It's one of the oldest living tree species, dating back over 150 million years. Adaptable to many soils, including alkaline, acidic, and compacted soils. Ginkgo trees are also tolerant of air pollution, heat, and saline conditions.



Gila Monster Gambel Oak -
Quercus gambelii 'Gila Monster'

Height: 30-40 feet. **Spread:** 20-25 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Xeric/Low. **Zones:** 3-9.

The story/seed source for the Gila Monster Gambel oak comes from a mountain range west of Datil, New Mexico, near the Arizona border. The genetics of these Gambel oaks lead to medium-sized single stem trees. The parent tree is found at a 7K foot elevation in an area that receives around 12" of annual precipitation and has endured several negative 30-degree days. The picture at left is of the parent tree provided by Scott Scogerboe (Fort Collins Wholesale Propagator) and is the source of the seedlings.



Texas Red Oak - *Quercus buckleyi*

Height: 30-50 feet. **Spread:** 30-50 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun/Part Shade.

Water needs: Low. **Zones:** 5-9.

Texas Red Oak is an excellent shade tree that has a striking red fall color. An alkaline-tolerant member of the red oak group that is closely related to the Shumard Oak but has better drought and heat tolerance.

The acorns for these seedlings were collected from native tree stands near Socorro, New Mexico growing in alkaline regions of hot and dry NM.





Shumard Oak - *Quercus shumardii*

Height: 40-60 feet. **Spread:** 40-60 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Low to Moderate.

Zones: 5-9.

A large, deciduous tree with a pyramidal shape and a wide crown. It's native to the southeastern and central United States. Makes a dramatic fall statement, with leaves turning brilliant red to red-orange. Grows in alkaline, acidic, loamy and well-drained soils.



Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*

Height: 50-60 feet. **Spread:** 35-45 feet.

Sunlight needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Xeric to Low. **Zones:** 3-8.

Pyramidal to oval in its youth, gradually maturing into a broad crowned tree with a massive trunk and very stout branches. Bark is rough and deeply furrowed, dark gray to gray-brown in color. Acorns 3/4" to 1 1/2" are enclosed by a heavily fringed cap. The leaves are dark green on top, gray green beneath generally turning yellow to brown in the fall, but occasionally red. Withstands drought, wind, extreme cold and heavy soils. An excellent tree for Colorado.



Shagbark Hickory - *Carya ovata*

Height: 60-80 feet. **Spread:** 25-35 feet.

Sunlight Needs: Full Sun.

Water needs: Moderate. **Zones:** 4-9.

Shagbark hickory is a large deciduous tree with an irregular, oval-rounded crown. It's a member of the walnut family and is native from Minnesota south to Georgia and Texas.

Non-showy, greenish yellow flowers appear in April-May, the male flowers in pendulous catkins and the female flowers in short spikes.

Female flowers produce an edible oval-rounded nut. Each nut is encased in a moderately thick husk which splits open in four sections when ripe in fall. Nuts are attractive to a variety of wildlife. Leaves turn yellow to golden brown in fall.

The bark of young trees is gray and smooth but exfoliates in long strips with age. Prefers moist, well-drained soil, but will tolerate alkaline soil, dry sites, occasional drought, and occasional flooding.

Photo credits:

- Mexican blue oak: <https://www.oaktopia.org/species>; <https://arboretum.arizona.edu/>
- Mimosa: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>, <https://horticultureunlimited.com>
- Shantung maple: <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu>
- Manzano maple: <https://bosquebill.blogspot.com>
- Chinese pistache: <https://shop.arborday.org/>, <https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu>
- Ginko: photos by Kamie Long
- Gila Monster Gambel Oak: photo by Scott Skogerboe
- Texas red oak: <https://greatplainsnursery.com/product/buckleyoak/>
- Shumard oak: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/
- Bur oak: photos by Vince Urbina, <https://www.tnnursery.net/products/bur-oak-tree>
- Shagbark hickory: <https://greatplainsnursery.com/product/shagbark-hickory-2/>