Tree Selection for El Paso County
By Fredricka Bogardus, Colorado Master Gardener

March and April are a good time to start thinking about
adding some trees to your garden. Trees are an investment
which if grown well, will add value and beauty to you
landscape for decades to come. Trees provide shade, shelter
for birds, sometimes spectacular spring blooms, fruit, or good
fall color.

There are several factors to consider when selecting a tree.
Scale is probably the most important factor. Pay close
attention to mature size when selecting trees. Large trees can
exceed 50', small trees may reach maturity at 20'. Like
Goldilocks you need to find the size that is 'just right' for
your garden. Growth rate is a factor to consider, while fast
growing trees may seem like a good idea, they typically are
more brittle, making storm damage a bigger problem.

If you are considering a flowering tree, think about fruit. Flowering trees that produce fruit can
make a major mess in your landscape; are you willing to do the clean up every year? Some
varieties produce no visible fruit, others have fruit that politely stays on the tree through winter
(persistent fruit), providing a food source for birds and requiring little clean up. There is no right
or wrong; just know what you are getting.

For an extensive list of recommended trees for our region consult the Front Range Tree
Recommendation List (https://extension.colostate.edu/.../garden/treereclist.pdf).
Approved trees for use in Colorado Springs right of way plantings:
https://coloradosprings.gov/.../approved_street_tree_list...

Trees not recommended for our region:
Ash trees because of susceptibility to Emerald Ash Borer.
Aspen trees are not recommended for front range urban landscapes, due to disease concerns and
growth habit that can be difficult to manage in smaller gardens.

BANNING LEWIS RANCH

Reminder: Landscaping improvements in Banning Lewis Ranch must be
submitted, reviewed, and approved prior to work commencing. You can
access the necessary Design Review Request form by clicking here.