



City of Moab Approved Plant List

Intent

The City of Moab Approved Landscape Plant List is intended for use by landscaping projects that must comply with [Moab Municipal Code 17.10 Landscaping Standards](#). The code intends to preserve the community's quality of life and property values by enriching the visual environment, supporting public safety, and contributing to a resilient and sustainable environment.

Purpose

The Approved Plant List serves as a tool for selecting plants suitable for the Moab climate while promoting sustainability and water conservation goals.

● Moab Climate and Microclimates

A microclimate refers to a smaller area that differs from the surrounding macroclimate. Local factors, such as slope or proximity to buildings, affect soil moisture, ambient temperature, and prevailing winds. Thus, although the plant list is suitable for the Moab climate in general, review your landscape for soil type, moisture, sun exposure, and maintenance requirements to select the plants that will be most successful.

● Sustainability and Water Conservation

The landscape code promotes healthy landscapes that use much less water. The City's landscape ordinance intends to enhance our outdoor spaces by supporting water-wise landscaping practices. Furthermore, it encourages stormwater management, fire protection, erosion prevention, urban heat island mitigation, and native plant habitat. The code supports the City's Sustainability Action Plan and Water Conservation Plan.

Approved Plant List ([17.10.040](#))

The Plant List categorizes native and non-native plants according to their water needs, ranging from non-irrigated, low-water to high-water. High-water plants are not recommended, unless they are in an area with natural access to water, such as a riparian zone.

- a. The plant list consists of four lists: a comprehensive list of all the approved plants (PDF and sortable spreadsheet), a plant-only list (PDF), and a tree-only list (PDF). The various mediums were designed to meet the needs of different preferences.
- b. The plant-only list includes cacti, forbs (herbaceous flowering plants), grasses, and shrubs.
- c. The tree-only list contains trees and identifies trees suitable for the tree park strip. Street-appropriate trees are identified by general or low clearance.
- d. Information regarding blooming, annuals, and perennials can be accessed from the City of Moab Approved Plant List (Spreadsheet).

Non-Listed Plants and Approved Plant List Criteria ([Appendix C](#))

Installation of plants that are not on the approved plant list must be preapproved by the City and are up to the discretion of the Zoning Administrator. To obtain approval, the applicant must demonstrate that the plant meets these requirements:

- a. The plant cannot exist on the Grand County Noxious Weeds List: <https://www.grandcountyutah.net/168/Noxious-Weeds>.
- b. The plant must be appropriately adapted to Moab's Plant Hardiness Zone 7 (0° -10°): <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.

- c. The applicant must provide a source or sources to confirm the plant is appropriately adapted to the environmental conditions, i.e., soil type, rainfall, temperature, pest conditions, and elevation. See the resource list of water-wise plants for Utah landscapes for examples: <https://extension.usu.edu/cwel/water-wise-plants>. (Ord. 23-08 § 3, 2023)

Noxious Weeds (17.10.040)

Under Section 7 of the Utah Noxious Weed Act, it is prohibited to plant any plants from the Grand County Noxious Weeds List (available here: <https://www.grandcountyutah.net/168/Noxious-Weeds>).

Definitions

SSP refers to subspecies.

"Non-irrigated" in reference to plant water requirements, means that the species can grow within the Moab climate without the need for any artificial irrigation. However, the plant may need some additional water supply during the initial stages of growth until it is fully established. In such cases, hand watering can be used as a means of supplementing the water needs of the plant.

"Landscaped area" refers to the area within the parcel with landscaping.

"Canopy tree" means a tree, usually with a one vertical stem or main trunk, which naturally develops a more or less distinct crown approximately six feet above ground and provides at maturity a minimum shade crown of twenty-five feet in diameter or greater.

"Street Tree" means that the species meets requirements established by the City code for planting in a park strip or public right-of-way (ROW).

"General" means that the tree meets the requirements established by the City code to be considered a street tree.

"Low Clearance" means that the species is suitable for planting under overhead utilities or where the tree cannot grow tall to avoid interference with the above structures and objects.

Sources

<https://revegmoab.com/234850-2/>

<https://conservationgardenpark.org/plants/>

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>

https://www.gjcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/2946/Grand-Junction-Street-Tree-List_030921

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/zoysiagrass/>

<https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/turfgrass-cultivars-for-utah>

https://www.tgwca.org/qualified_materials.html

NATIVE TREES

Native Trees: Non-Irrigated/Very Low Water			
Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Singleleaf Ash	Fraxinus anomala	No	Monitor the tree for pests, diseases or other ailments regularly. Protect the trunk especially where maintenance activities, such as mowing, may cause damage. Newly planted trees in areas with high exposure should have the trunk protected during the winter.
Utah Juniper	Juniperus osteosperma	No	water during winter drought
Rocky Mountain Juniper	Juniperus scopulorum	No	
Bristlecone Pine	Pinus aristata	No	
Pinyon Pine	Pinus edulis	No	water during winter drought
Singleleaf Pinyon	Pinus monophylla	No	
Native Trees and Vines: Low Water			
Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Rocky Mountain Maple	Acer glabrum	Low clearance	Plant in protected site - heat tolerance may be a concern. Prune to develop strong branching structure and overhead clearance. Depending on root stock, may have issues with higher pH soils.
Bigtooth Maple	Acer grandidentatum	Low clearance	Often slow growing. Tolerant of alkaline soils and intolerant of compacted soils. Typically, multi-stem. Prune to develop central leader, strong branching structure and overhead clearance.
Desert Willow	Chilopsis linearis	Low clearance	Exotic-looking blooms, rapid growth, drought tolerance, and ease of maintenance have made it a sought-after plant within its range, which in nature is from south- central Texas south to Nuevo Leon and Zacatecas in Mexico and west all the way to southern California and Baja California.
White Fir	Abies concolor	No	
American Plum	Prunus americana	No	
Wavyleaf Oak	Quercus undulata	No	

Native Trees: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
New Mexico Maple	<i>Acer glabrum</i> var. <i>neomexicanum</i>	Low clearance	Prune to develop strong branching structure and overhead clearance.
Netleaf Hackberry	<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	General	Slow growing. Nipple gall may be an aesthetic issue. Prune to develop strong branching structure and overhead clearance. Also known as western hackberry.
Autumn Brilliance, Princess Diana, Robin Hill Apple Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	Low clearance	Cold hardy. Thin bark can be easily damaged. Prune to develop single stem form. Robin Hill best cultivar for single stem form.
Redbud, western	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	No	
Gambel Oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	No	Root suckers may be an issue. Prune to develop single stem form. Kermes scale is an increasing issue.
Turbinella Oak	<i>Quercus turbinella</i>	No	
Ponderosa Pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	No	Winter water is critical

Native Trees: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Black Willow (gooding)	<i>Salix goodingii</i>	No	

Native Shrubs and Trees: Very High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Willow Shrubs	<i>Salix</i> spp.	No	Suitable for screening – not street tree Not a canopy tree
Coyote Willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>	No	Suitable for screening – not street tree Not a canopy tree
Yellow Willow	<i>Salix lutea</i>	No	Suitable for screening – not street tree Not a canopy tree

NON-NATIVE TREES

Non-native Trees: Non-irrigated/Very Low Water			
Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
One-seeded Juniper	<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	No	water during winter drought
Skyrocket juniper	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> 'Skyrocket'	No	
Non-native Trees: Low Water			
Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Trident Maple	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>	General	Slow growing. No pests or disease problems at this time. Snow & ice damage may be a concern.
Sunset Maple	<i>Acer truncatum x platanoides</i>	General	
Incense Cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	No	
Purple Catalpa	<i>Catalpa x erubescens</i>	General	Purple leaved cultivar of parent species.
Western Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	General	Heat, drought, and alkaline soil tolerant. Decay when wounded or as tree ages may be an issue.
Common Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	General	Tolerant of urban growing conditions. Nipple gall may be an aesthetic issue. Intolerant of mechanical damage.
Chitalpa	<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	No	Heat, drought, and alkaline soil tolerant. Can be trained to a single trunk. Deep root system.
Emerald Pointe Hardy Rubber Tree	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	General	Prune to develop a strong branching structure. Availability may be limited.
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	General	Plant Shademaster, Skyline, or Streetkeeper
Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	General	Plant JC McDaniel, Stately Manor, or Espresso male (fruitless) cultivars. Tolerant of urban growing conditions. No known insect or disease issues. Leaves, seeds, and pulp reported to be poisonous if ingested.
Persian Ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i>	General	Few issues once established. Prune to develop overhead clearance. Availability may be limited.
Common Hoptree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Low clearance	Tolerant of urban conditions and full shade sites. Suckering may be an issue. Prune to develop a strong branching structure and overhead clearance.

Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	General	Tolerant of urban conditions. Depending on genetics, may be susceptible to bullet gall. Large root system requires large tree lawn.
Golden Raintree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	General	Volunteer seedlings could be an issue in mulched areas.
Osage Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	General	Plant White Shield or Wichita fruitless and thornless male cultivars. Tolerant of heat and drought. Highly resistant to storm damage due to hard, dense wood. Availability may be limited.
Fruitless Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	General	Fast growing tree tolerant of urban conditions. Tree develops a wide / broad canopy. Shallow roots can lift sidewalks and cement.

Non-native Trees: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Greencolumn Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	General	Good heat and drought tolerance. May suffer some scorch in exposed sites.
Caddo Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	General	Heat, drought, and alkaline soil tolerant cultivar. Can become chlorotic.
Maple	<i>Acer spp.</i>	General	Big Tooth, Amur hard to grow in our soils
Baumann Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	General	Recommended over standard horsechestnut. Tolerant of restricted growing areas. Intolerant of excess heat and drought. Powdery mildew, leaf scorch, and leaf drop may be issues. May be subject to storm breakage; avoid planting in high wind areas.
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	No	
Redbud, eastern	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Low clearance	
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	General	Plant male clone, fruitless. Slow grower
MaacNificent Amur Maackia	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	General	Tolerant of urban conditions, including drought. Branching is more upright than species. Prune to develop strong branching structure and overhead clearance.
Starburst Amur Maackia	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>	General	Tree displays low branching habit (starting at 48" above ground). Plant where overhead clearance is not an issue.

Amur Maackia	Maackia amurensis	Low clearance	Tolerant of urban conditions, including drought. Prune to develop strong branching structure and overhead clearance.
Summertime Amur Maackia	Maackia amurensis	Low clearance	Small cultivar of parent species. Tree displays low branching habit (starting at 48" above ground). Plant where overhead clearance is not an issue.
City Sprite Zelkova	Zelkova serrata	Low clearance	
Fruit Trees	Various		Apple, Pear, Plum, Peach, Apricot, etc.

Non-native Trees: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Street Tree	Notes
Colorado Spruce	Picea pungens	No	Best at higher elevations
Common Juniper	Juniperus communis Juniperus ssp	No	Many varieties, water during winter drought
Hawthorn (black)	Crataegus douglasii		
Arborvitea	Thuja occidentalis		