



United States of America
Department of Agriculture

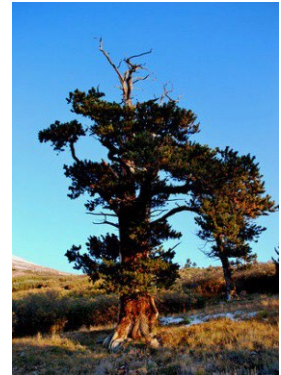


Forest Service
Southwestern Region
Carson National Forest

Trees of the Carson National Forest

Rocky Mountain Bristlecone Pine

The Rocky Mountain Bristlecone Pine, is located throughout the eastern Rocky Mountain region in Colorado and New Mexico. The Bristlecone Pine is famous as a long-lived tree, growing in exposed and harsh conditions on high mountains. The Rocky Mountain Bristlecone Pine is found from around 7000 feet above sea level to tree line, near 11900 feet. Bristlecone and Limber Pine can survive where winter winds sweep the high country free of snow, while neighboring spruce and fir are buried several feet deep. A Bristlecone pine five feet high may be over 500 years old. Bristlecone pine can be found on the Carson National Forest in the Valle Vidal Unit. The needles look like a baby bottle brush.

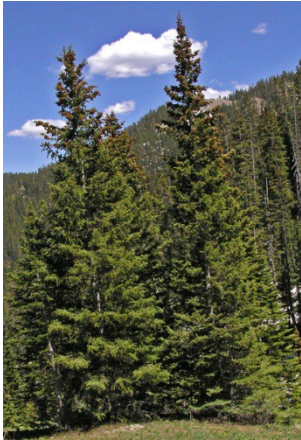


Douglas Fir

The largest native evergreen tree in New Mexico and Arizona. It is the most important timber species in the US and is one of the commercial species of New Mexico. The tree is rather a botanical puzzle, for it bears a strong resemblance to spruce and fir as well to hemlock and yew. Younger specimens are cone-shaped and foliated to the ground; older trees retain the conical shape but elevated off the ground with increasingly rugged, craggy trunks. It will tolerate both full sun and considerable shade.



Engelmann Spruce



These are native trees growing to 60 meters tall, the crown dense and narrowly conic or spire-like. Branches spreading horizontally to somewhat drooping. The bark usually is reddish to purplish-brown and thin scaly. Engelmann spruce grows in a humid climate with long, cold winters and short, cool summers. It occupies one of the highest and coldest forest environments in the western United States, characterized by heavy snowfall and temperature extremes of more than -45.6°C (-50°F) to above 32.2°C (90°F).

Gamble Oak

Deciduous shrub or tree with a rounded crown. Gamble Oak grows well on dry slopes. Dark green color turns to yellow, orange or redfish in the fall. It is tolerant of both cold mountains and low, warmer areas. Gamble Oak grows to about 15 to 30 feet tall. It is usually located in elevations 5,000 to 8,000 feet.



Limber Pine

Limber pine is a small to medium sized tree. Slow growing, long-lived species, sometimes taking several hundred years to reach maturity. Mature trees may exceed 1000 years of age. The central trunk is usually distorted, many branched and twisted. Limber pine reproduces entirely from seed. Limber pine grows across a wider range of elevations than any other tree species in the central Rocky Mountains, inhabiting some of the driest sites capable of supporting trees. Most often found in more open and dry environments and is typically exposed, on rocky mountainsides.



Pinon (Pine)

A small bushy evergreen tree with a short trunk, horizontal branching and rounded crowns. Found in semi-arid regions of the west. Sometimes called Mexican Nut Pine, it is native to both Arizona and New Mexico, where the seeds are harvested and sold as nuts. Once a staple food of southwestern Indians, Pinyon ranks first among the native nut trees of the U.S. that is not also cultivated. In autumn pine nuts are harvested by local residents for local and gourmet markets. It occurs in mixed or pure stands of woodland in foothills, mesas or canyons, and often on dry, rocky ridges. It does well in cultivation, a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions, is winter-hardy, slow-growing, and very long-lived. Pinon trees grow in elevations between 4000-9000 feet.



Ponderosa Pine

An evergreen, open-branched tree forming an open pyramid when young, becoming a short-conical head in age. It is native to western North America, adapted to well-drained soils in Arizona and New Mexico. It occurs as dominant trees in mixed coniferous forests or as open pure stands. Ponderosa is intolerant to the heat and wind of the desert, but its adaptability and drought tolerances have brought it wide use in shelterbelts and ornamental plantings. It is moderately slow-growing, especially in early years, but is very long-lived. It has a root system with deep taproot; therefore is wind-firm. Grows in elevations up to 9,000 ft.



Quaking Aspen



Often called Golden, Trembling or Quaking Aspen, this tree is the most widely distributed native tree in North America. The name refers to the leaves, which tremble in the slightest breeze. It is common in the higher mountains of the western two-thirds of New Mexico. Aspens pioneer on burned areas and serve as a nurse crop to conifers that eventually replace them. They spread readily from suckers and root sprouts; and, in fact, a grove of aspens in Utah is the largest known living organism on Earth, covering thousands of acres.

Rocky Mountain Juniper

Rocky Mountain juniper can be a shrub or small tree, growing 3 to 30 feet tall. It branches near the ground, and has more of a Christmas tree shape than Utah juniper. Rocky Mountain Juniper pollinates April to May, juniper “berries” mature October to December of the second year following pollination. It reproduces from seed. Rocky Mountain juniper is a dry, or more rarely, moist sub-humid plant which grows well on open, exposed bluffs, rocky points or ridgetops, on southern exposures and in ravines or canyons. It is found between 5,000 and 9,000 ft. elevation.



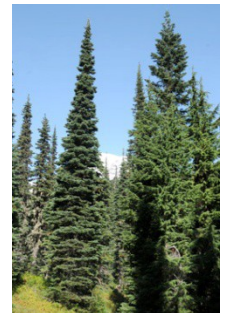
Rocky Mountain Maple



It is commonly referred to as ‘Douglas Maple’ or Rocky Mountain Maple. It’s adapted to grow in a wide variety of sites. It occurs from moist lowland sites to dry upland areas. It can be found growing in moderate shade as an understory species, or on very sunny exposed ridges. Its fall leaf color can be as brilliant as any maple, and its glossy reddish bark is most notably attractive in winter.

Subalpine Fir

When mature 40 to 100 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet in diameter. It has a very narrow crown of dense foliage; often spire-like with branches to the ground. When young, grayish green and covered with resin blisters; later turning grey to white, unbroken except near the base of large trees.



White Fir

Rocky Mountain white fir has a broad crown. A waxy coverage gives the needles a bluish cast. Needles also have 2 white lines in their underside.

White fir trees begin cone production at about 40 years and bear cones at the upper third of the crown. In southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico, white fir is a co-climax species with Douglas fir and is associated with blue spruce, Limber Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Engelmann Spruce, Subalpine fir, Quaking Aspen and Rocky Mountain Juniper.

