

WYOMING

Wyoming State Forestry Division



Wyoming's champion trees provide more than a sense of awe and healthy competition; these trees demonstrate resilience. They have weathered many challenges and still stand strong.

Following the American Forests nomination and measurement guidelines, the [Wyoming Champion Tree Program](#) has nearly 60 species on its state register. It includes native and ornamental species that are naturalized or grow well and are not invasive to the state. These trees prove that large specimens can grow in a tough climate and serve as prized individuals, highlighting species diversity.

In order to recognize the Champions, letters of recognition and certificates are created and signed by the State Champion Tree Coordinator and State

Forester, which are sent to the nominator and the property owner. The official State Champion Tree Register is updated with the measurements, photos of the tree are added to the slide show, and these two items are displayed on the Wyoming State Forestry Division website. Social media posts are also created and shared to highlight these trees.

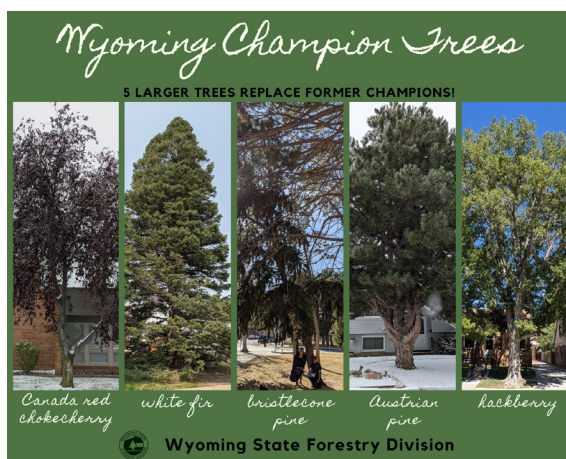
Wyoming's champion trees are scattered across the state. Many of the native species are found in natural forests, most are found in community canopies, and some populations are concentrated in Wyoming's communities!

As of 2022, Cheyenne has 17, Sheridan has seven, and there are three in Buffalo.

Over the course of 20 years, when the program was initially started in Wyoming, many trees have been nominated and recognized. Some champions have been removed or replaced, and some have been honored by having news articles published about the history of the trees. In 2021, the City of Sheridan created a video to highlight the champion trees in their local area, which can be viewed on their [website](#).

A benefit of the Champion Tree Program is that it has

encouraged tree enthusiasts to look for large trees and submit nominations when they find a grand specimen. It also provides a bit of competition. Finding trees that are large, old, and inspire a sense of wonder and awe is part of why foresters seek out their professions. In order for these trees to reach the size they have, they must have survived many storms and severe weather systems, proving they are resilient.



Header: Champion Plains Cottonwood has a 31-foot circumference, 100-foot crown spread, and stands 80 feet tall, the largest Champion Tree in WY. Photo: Tara Costanzo. **Left:** New tree species added to the champion tree register and new champion trees replacing former champions. Graphics created by Tara Costanzo