

Utah

UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

Choosing reliable tree species that are proven to be hardy, yet offer diversity from the monotony of over-planted species, can be daunting for municipal foresters and residents alike. In an effort to better inform tree-planting decisions throughout the state, the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands' Urban and Community Forestry Program contacted a network of experienced urban foresters and nursery growers to provide input for the compilation of a statewide recommended tree species list – the Utah Preferred Tree Species List.

In partnership with the Utah Community Forest Council, Utah State University Extension Service, nursery personnel, and municipal foresters, a detailed and thorough list was generated under the direction of the Division's Urban & Community Forestry Program. The list was then categorized into recommended tree species for three different climate zones in the state: Northern Region, Southern Region, and High Elevation Region. These lists provide the public with a valuable resource about tree species that are reliable, hardy, and diverse in various parts of the state.

The lists have been marketed by sharing with local nurseries and encouraging them to make the identified species available to customers. Stickers were printed for nurseries to label the Utah Preferred Tree Species for sale in their nursery, hopefully increasing sales of these desirable trees. Into the future, the intent of the Division and partners is to revisit the list every few years and update it by replacing some of the species with new focus tree species. The Division will manage the list and lead the effort to update it.

The Utah Preferred Tree Species List has proven to be highly successful. Although the list is available online, there is a high demand for a printed version to distribute at nurseries, in Extension and Division offices, and other tree-related events.



Additionally, the distribution of the list has encouraged the public to become more engaged, with many individuals and organizations sharing their recommendations on tree species that should be considered for future revisions. This was an unanticipated but welcome outcome of the project and outreach effort.

Overall, the project helped to increase communication between nurseries and those who are planting trees, creating increased awareness and education, better planting decisions, and significantly stronger partnerships between agency and private partners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Urban & Community Forestry Program
<https://ffsl.utah.gov/>