



**Saddle Hills**  
C O U N T Y

# SHELTERBELT SPECIES QUICK FACTS

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## Colorado Spruce

People are attracted to the distinctive blue-green color of this hardy evergreen. But Blue Spruce really stands out because it is tough, long lived, and adapted to a wide range of growing conditions. Blue Spruce trees are ideally suited for use in shelterbelts, privacy screens, or as accent trees.

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 27 m (90 ft)

**Spread:** 6 m (20 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** full sun

**Growth rate:** slow

**Life span:** 80 years +

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** none

**Pollution tolerance:** high

**In row spacing:** 3 - 4 m (10 - 12 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** Colorado blue spruce, Colorado spruce



## White Spruce

White Spruce is a hardy, long-lived evergreen tree. It can grow in many soil types and moisture levels. And it can even tolerate significant amounts of shade. White spruce requires little maintenance and is well suited for use in shelterbelts, privacy screens, hedges, and as an ornamental in an urban setting.

**Zone:** 1a

**Height:** 25 m (82 ft)

**Spread:** 6 m (20 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** partial shade, full sun

**Growth rate:** medium

**Life span:** 70 years +

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** none

**Pollution tolerance:** medium

**In row spacing:** 3 m (10 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** alberta white spruce, canadian spruce, cat spruce, labrador spruce, northern spruce, pasture spruce, porsild spruce, skunk spruce, western white spruce



## Lodgepole Pine

Lodgepole pine is well suited to western Canada's climate and growing conditions. This native pine noted for its rapid growth among evergreen. And as one of Canada's hardiest conifers, it can tolerate cold, shade, drought, and poor soil conditions.

**Zone:** 1a

**Height:** 30 m (98 ft)

**Spread:** 6 m (20 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** full sun

**Growth rate:** fast

**Suckering:** none

**Pollution tolerance:**

medium

**In row spacing:** 3 - 4 m

(10 - 12 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5

m (16 ft)



## White Birch

White Birch is a large, attractive deciduous tree. This fast-growing, cold hardy species has distinctive white papery bark that peels in layers, making it a beautiful ornamental or accent tree. White Birch also makes great firewood.

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 18 m (60 ft)

**Spread:** 11 m (35 ft)

**Moisture:** normal, wet

**Light:** full sun

**Fuzz/fluff:** no

**Catkins:** yes

**Bark:** white, papery, peeling

**Growth rate:** fast

**Life span:** 70 years +

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** none

**Pollution tolerance:**  
medium

**Other names:** American white birch, canoe birch, paper birch

## Saskatoons

Common Saskatoon is a native shrub that's famous for its great-tasting fruit. The berries are terrific for fresh eating and cooking. The Saskatoon bush itself can be quite large and produces an abundance of fruit. Saskatoons are hardy and can tolerate partial shade and a variety of growing conditions.

**Zone:** 1a

**Height:** 4 m (13 ft)

**Spread:** 2.7 m (9 ft)

**Moisture:** normal

**Light:** partial shade, full sun

**Berries:** purple-blue

**Brix (sugar content):** 14

**Firmness:** firm

**Growth rate:** medium

**Life span:** short

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** medium

**Pollution tolerance:** low

**Other names:** common serviceberry, wild saskatoon, wild serviceberry



## Trembling Aspen

Trembling Aspen is a hardy, fast-growing tree. It is known for its unique "trembling" leaf movement and beautiful bark that whitens with age.

This native shade tree tolerates a range of growing conditions and requires little maintenance.

**Zone:** 1a

**Height:** 25 m (82 ft)

**Spread:** 9 m (30 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** full sun

**Fuzz/fluff:** yes

**Catkins:** yes

**Fall colour:** brilliant yellow

**Growth rate:** fast

**Life span:** short

**Maintenance:** medium

**Suckering:** high

**Pollution tolerance:** low

**Other names:** American

aspen, golden aspen, mountain aspen, quaking aspen,

quiver leaf aspen, trembling

poplar, white poplar



## Hybrid Poplar

Hybrid poplar is a large, prairie hardy tree ideally suited to shelterbelts. Cold tolerance, drought tolerance, and disease resistance make the green giant a perfect fit for anyone looking for a low maintenance tree. This hybrid poplar variety produces no fuzz.

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 15 m (49 ft)

**Spread:** 8 m (25 ft)

**Moisture:** any

**Light:** partial shade, full sun

**Hybrid:** yes

**Fuzz/fluff:** no

**Growth rate:** very fast

**Maintenance:** medium

**Suckering:** high

**Pollution tolerance:** medium

**In row spacing:** 2.4 - 3 m (8 - 10 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** brooks poplar, hybrid poplar



## Chokecherry

Western Chokecherry is a shrub or small tree commonly used for farmstead and field windbreaks. It produces white flowers in the spring and edible dark purple fruit that matures between September and October. Its cherries are great for making for making jams and jellies (or wine), but are not very palatable for raw eating.

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 7 m (23 ft)

**Spread:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** full sun

**Fall colour:** reddish-purple

**Berries:** edible small berries that can be used for making jelly and wine

**Growth rate:** fast

**Life span:** short

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** low

**Pollution tolerance:** medium

**Toxicity:** toxic to animals with segmented stomachs (horses, cattle, deer, moose, etc.)

**Other names:** bitter-berry, chokecherry, common chokecherry, Virginia bird berry

## Red Osier Dogwood

Red Osier Dogwood is a small deciduous shrub that features deep red stems and twigs year-round, with creamy white flowers in the spring. This shrub will add a nice pop of color to your yard.

Red Osier Dogwood is an excellent soil stabilizer and a nitrogen fixer. It is fast growing and becomes drought tolerant once well established.

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 2.7 m (9 ft)

**Spread:** 1.8 m (6 ft)

**Moisture:** normal, wet

**Light:** partial shade, full sun

**Fall colour:** dark red

**Berries:** small white berries (5-9 mm diameter)

**Flowers:** dull white flowers in spring

**Bark:** branches and twigs are dark red giving it a distinct look in the fall/winter

**Growth rate:** fast

**Life span:** medium

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** medium

**Pollution tolerance:** high

**In row spacing:** 0.9 m (3 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** American dogwood, California dogwood, creek dogwood, dogberry tree, red dogwood, red twig dogwood, red osier dogwood, redstem dogwood, western dogwood



## Golden Willow

Golden Willow is an attractive accent tree that's perfectly suited for those moist or wet areas on your property.

This fast growing tree has glossy narrow leaves that turn gold in fall, furrowed brown bark and showy gold branches that especially stand out in the winter.

Golden Willow is commonly used for windbreaks, shelterbelts, and ornamental planting. In addition to looking great, Golden Willow attracts a variety of birds and mammals with its twigs and buds.

All willow are important to native pollinators each spring as they have higher amounts of pollen and nectar early each growing season when other food sources are scarce.

**Note: do not plant near buildings or buried services.**

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 15 m (49 ft)

**Spread:** 15 m (50 ft)

**Moisture:** normal, wet

**Light:** full sun

**Fuzz/fluff:** yes

**Catkins:** yes

**Fall colour:** golden yellow

**Bark:** new shoots (growth) are bright yellow on the plant giving it a nice fall/winter appeal

**Growth rate:** fast

**Life span:** medium

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** medium

**Pollution tolerance:** high

**In row spacing:** 2.4 - 3 m (8 - 10 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** basket willow, blue willow, cricket bat willow, duck willow, velvet osier, white osier, white willow



## Bebb's Willow

This large shrub is native to all of Canada and most of the United States. Its leaves are green on the top and grey on the bottom, and it produces catkin based flowers and non-edible fruit which appears very similar to a group of pine needles.

Bebb's Willow is foraged for by many species including elk, hares, beavers and various birds. It is commonly used to prevent erosion and protect aquatic environments due to its preference for shady, moist environments.

**Zone:** 1a

**Height:** 5 m (15 ft)

**Spread:** 3 m (10 ft)

**Moisture:** normal, wet

**Light:** partial shade, full sun

**Fuzz/fluff:** no

**Catkins:** yes

**Growth rate:** fast

**Life span:** short

**Other names:** beak willow, diamond willow, livid willow, long-beaked willow, smooth bebb willow, smooth gray willow



## Sea Buckthorn

Sea Buckthorn is a nitrogen fixing shrub that produces attractive berries high in vitamin C.

While we can't confirm claims that the berries are effective in treating various ailments, many people believe consuming the berries helps with arthritis, infections, and asthma, among other things. Sea Buckthorn plants have attractive pale silvery-green leaves, dense branches, and large thorns, people like to grow in ornamental hedges or as a first row in a shelterbelt.

**Note:** these plants typically reach maturity and make their sex easily known (females producing fruit) in their 3rd or 4th year of growth. Our seedlings are too young to identify their sex.

**Zone:** 2b

**Height:** 5 m (15 ft)

**Spread:** 4 m (12 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** full sun

**Berries:** small berries that can be used for making jelly and wine, even medicines

**Growth rate:** medium

**Life span:** medium

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** high

**Pollution tolerance:** high

**In row spacing:** 0.9 - 1.2 m (3 - 4 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** sallowthorn, sandthorn, seaberry



## Silver Buffaloberry

Silver Buffalo Berry is a cold hardy, ornamental shrub that is commonly used in the first row of shelter-belts instead of caragana or lilac. It features subtle yellow flowers, smooth grey bark, and red fruit. On occasion orange fruit is produced and rarely a yellow fruit. Please note: we regularly collect the rare yellow and orange fruit to use for our seed source.

Long-lived and slow growing, Silver Buffalo Berry is commonly found around sloughs, in coulees, and on light soils across the prairies, and grows best in full sun.

Buyers can enjoy increased bird life to their property, as this shrub acts as a habitat plant. It is also commonly planted for its ornamental and winter interest.

This species is also known as one of the more salt-tolerant species for those with saline soils.

Note: this berry has mixed reviews when fresh, but makes a desirable jam or jelly with what is described as a clove and pear taste.

**Zone:** 2a

**Height:** 5 m (18 ft)

**Spread:** 3 m (10 ft)

**Moisture:** dry, normal

**Light:** full sun

**Fall colour:** insignificant

**Berries:** deep red drupes of edible but bitter fruit

**Flowers:** white

**Growth rate:** medium

**Life span:** medium

**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** high

**Pollution tolerance:** high

**In row spacing:** 0.9 - 1.2 m (3 - 4 ft)

**Between row spacing:** 5 m (16 ft)

**Other names:** buffalo shepherdia, silver buffaloberry, thorny buffaloberry



## Common Lilac

Common Purple Lilac is a popular lilac. This large shrub provides excellent privacy or wind protection in an attractive package.

Lilac flowers are pleasantly fragrant and add a beautiful lavender colour to your property. Common Purple Lilac is cold hardy, easy to grow, and can tolerate most soil types. Some people alternate villosa and common purple lilacs to create the impression that the hedge is in flower for almost a full month with the common purple flowering about 2 weeks sooner than the Villosa Lilac.

<b>Zone:</b> 2a	<b>Life span:</b> medium
<b>Height:</b> 5 m (16 ft)	<b>Maintenance:</b> low
<b>Spread:</b> 2.7 m (9 ft)	<b>Suckering:</b> medium
<b>Moisture:</b> dry, normal	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high
<b>Light:</b> full sun	
<b>Flowers:</b> dark purple, extremely fragrant	<b>In row spacing:</b> 0.9 m (3 ft)
<b>Growth rate:</b> fast	<b>Between row spacing:</b> 5 m (16 ft)



## Sensation Lilac

Sensation Lilac is an outstanding shrub known for its fragrant, bicolor flowers. In mid-spring, stunning purple flowers with white borders emerge and cover the entire plant.

Once the flowers bloom, they give off a beautifully sweet scent that is enjoyed by people, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife. Plant Sensation Lilac in full sun to produce the most vibrant flower color.

<b>Zone:</b> 3a	<b>Life span:</b> short
<b>Height:</b> 2.4 m (8 ft)	<b>Maintenance:</b> medium
<b>Spread:</b> 1.8 m (6 ft)	<b>Suckering:</b> high
<b>Moisture:</b> normal	<b>Pollution tolerance:</b> high
<b>Light:</b> full sun	
<b>Growth rate:</b> medium	



## Amber Maple

Amber Maple is a fast growing tree with great fall color. These trees are typically grown as feature or shade trees on larger properties and acreages. Manitoba maples are cold hardy and tolerant of a wide range of soil moisture conditions.

**Note that Amber Maple is considered toxic to horses.**

**Zone:** 2a  
**Height:** 15 m (49 ft)  
**Spread:** 12 m (39 ft)  
**Moisture:** any  
**Light:** any  
**Flowers:** white  
**Growth rate:** fast  
**Maintenance:** medium

**Suckering:** medium  
**Pollution tolerance:** high  
**In row spacing:** 2.4 - 3 m  
(8 - 10 ft)  
**Between row spacing:** 5 m  
(16 ft)



## Dwarf Spruce

Dwarf Alberta Spruce is a small tree with very dense foliage. It is an attractive specimen in landscape designs and small yards. This plant naturally grows into the classic conical shape, but responds well to shearing and pruning.

Dwarf Alberta Spruce is hardy and disease resistant. However, its thick foliage can collect mildew. Consider planting this tree in an open space where the wind can dry out its needles.

You can use this cultivar as a substitute for cedar or juniper.

**Zone:** 3a  
**Height:** 3 m (10 ft)  
**Spread:** 0.9 m (3 ft)  
**Moisture:** normal  
**Light:** partial shade, full sun  
**Growth rate:** slow  
**Life span:** long  
**Maintenance:** low

**Suckering:** none  
**Pollution tolerance:** low  
**Other names:** dwarf white spruce

