



10.1 Cold Deserts



American Aspen / Quaking Aspen

(*Populus tremuloides*)



LIGHT: Full Sun
WATER: Average
HEIGHT: 20 - 50 ft
SPREAD: 10 - 30 ft

This species has dark green leaves that turn golden yellow in the fall and flutter and tremble in the wind. Before the leaves, small male and female flowers appear on separate catkins and trees, with female flowers giving way to small fruit.



Chokecherry

(*Prunus virginiana*)



LIGHT: Full Sun, Partial Sun
WATER: Low, Average
HEIGHT: 20 - 30 ft
SPREAD: 15 - 20 ft

This plant is tolerant to drought, and dry, rocky, or clay soil. It is a great choice for beds, borders, hedges, screens, and open woodland gardens. It produces white flowers and edible berries.



Coyote Willow

(*Salix exigua*)



LIGHT: Full Sun
WATER: Average, High
HEIGHT: 15 - 20 ft
SPREAD: 15 - 20 ft

This plant thrives in diverse habitats, offering drought resistance, flood tolerance, and erosion prevention. With gray-green leaves and pale lemon catkins in spring, it adds visual interest and supports various wildlife species.



Douglas Fir

(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)



LIGHT: Full Sun, Partial Sun
WATER: Average
HEIGHT: 40 - 80 ft
SPREAD: 10 - 20 ft

This versatile evergreen tree is highly valued for its beauty and is often used as a Christmas tree. It has dense, soft needles and gracefully drooping branches. The tree produces cylindrical cones that provide a food source for wildlife.



Eastern Cottonwood

(*Populus deltoides*)



LIGHT: Full Sun
WATER: Average
HEIGHT: 50 - 80 ft
SPREAD: 35 - 60 ft

This tree has green leaves up to 5 inches long that turn yellow in the fall. Before the leaves emerge, small male and female flowers appear on separate trees in mid-spring.

* Not native to northwestern portions of ecoregion



Ponderosa Pine

(*Pinus ponderosa*)



LIGHT: Full Sun
WATER: Average
HEIGHT: 60 - 100 ft
SPREAD: 25 - 30 ft

This majestic and resilient tree is known for its tall, straight trunks and distinctive orange-brown bark that peels off in puzzle-like plates. It has long, needle-like leaves grouped in bundles of three and produces large, egg-shaped cones. It can live over 500 years.



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Yellow Rabbitbrush

(Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus)



LIGHT: Full Sun

WATER: Low

HEIGHT: 1 - 3 ft

SPREAD: 1 - 3 ft

This hardy and drought-tolerant shrub brings vibrant color to the garden. It showcases clusters of bright yellow flowers, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies. This plant is also used for erosion control, and is good forage for cattle, sheep, and horses.