

## What's being planted in Colorado Springs

*Memorial Park – October 17, 2007*



### **Common Hackberry** (*Celtis Occidentalis*)

The Common Hackberry grows to 40 to 60 feet tall and is known for providing tough, flexible wood for building. It is capable of tolerating many different soil types. The Common Hackberry produces small dark-red berries that turn purple as they mature and is an excellent tree for wildlife because the fruit is eaten by many birds and mammals, including the cedar waxwing, mockingbird and robin.

### **English Oak** (*Quercus Robur*)

The English Oak is a majestic tree with a very wide-spreading crown; a short, sturdy trunk; and deeply fissured, gray/brown bark. It can grow to 140 feet tall and spread 80 feet or more wide, although it is usually smaller in cultivation. Leaves remain deep green long into autumn before turning brown. They stay on the tree well into winter. The English Oak is tolerant of acidic to alkaline soils and enjoys full sun. It grows only a foot or so a year when young, but it can live more than 700 years. The English Oak is used as a shade tree or a specimen tree in larger landscapes. This species and most varieties of English Oak are best suited for parks and other large areas. The wood has been a valuable commodity for centuries.



### **Plains Cottonwood** (*Populus Sargentii*)

The Plains Cottonwood is the great tree of the American prairies. Young trees have a straight columnar trunk with a rounded crown. Older trees are massive with heavy, wide-spreading branches. The trunk can occasionally reach six feet in diameter. The largest recorded Plains Cottonwood grows a few miles north of Boulder, Colo. The life span of the Plains Cottonwood is relatively short – few exceed 100 years. This tree provides food for beavers (both bark and leaves) and stems for beaver dams and lodges. Deer and elk munch on the twigs. Plains Cottonwood leaves brush together and make a distinctive rustling or whispering sound. The bark is pale yellow/green, thin and smooth when it is young. Older bark is gray and deeply furrowed, leaving long vertical flat-topped ridges of thick bark.

### **Narrow-Leaf Cottonwood** (*Populus Angustifolia*)

Narrow-Leaf Cottonwood is a small deciduous tree growing 45 to 60 feet high with a rather narrow crown and slender twigs. The bark is less deeply furrowed than broad-leaved cottonwoods. Toothed yellow-green leaves are narrow and willow-like. Discovered in 1805 by Lewis and Clark on their expedition to the Northwest, this variety is the most common cottonwood of the northern Rocky Mountains. It is easily distinguishable from related species by the narrow short-stalked, willow-like leaves. Its root system makes it suitable for erosion control.

