

Choosing a Tree Best Suited to Cheyenne

Hardiness Zone - Spring is the best time to plant a tree. Whether a tree survives and flourishes and whether you'll enjoy the view or regret the ugly tree depends whether you choose a tree adapted to Cheyenne. Just because a tree is sold in Cheyenne doesn't mean it will grow or flourish in Cheyenne. Cheyenne is in hardiness



This Downy Hawthorn is an example of an ornamental tree that is very hardy and adaptable to Cheyenne but underutilized.

zone 4. You may have read the debate on whether Cheyenne is in zone 5, but for best results, choose a tree adapted to zone 4 or less. Trees rated to hardiness zones 1-4 are able to withstand Cheyenne's temperature extremes. **Read the label.**

Variety - Your neighbor may have an apple tree that bears so much fruit he can't use it all. That doesn't mean you can grow any apple in Cheyenne, you need to choose a variety adapted to zone 4. This is true for many species of trees. While one variety of the same type of tree may thrive, another variety will die. In the case of a tree that flowers and/or bears fruit, for a variety not adapted to the area, the tree may survive, but it will never flower or the flowers will not develop into fruit. **Read the label.**

Size - Choose a tree that is right for the location. While the four foot spruce you bought looks cute as an accent next to your sidewalk, it won't be so cute when it's 35 feet across and blocking your sidewalk. It's a moot point because you can't walk on the sidewalk after the roots buckled it. Choose a tree that fits your space in both size and spread.

Diversity – While it's safest to plant the same tree species that you see growing in your neighborhood, planting a different species is an opportunity to add beauty and diversity to your property. There are lots of trees with interesting flowers, leaves, stems, trunks and growth forms adapted to this area.

Quality - Buy a good tree, you're going to have to look at it for a long time. We all want to rehabilitate the "Charlie Brown" tree and you can probably get it on sale. However, many times the structural damage cannot be repaired. You'll have a lopsided misshapen tree for the rest of its life.