

Another reminder: use these fastigiata trees in Colorado landscapes

Columnar or fastigiata form is rare and prized in the nursery and landscape trade and increasingly valued as streetscapes narrow and residential lots become smaller. The terms “columnar” and “fastigiata” are generally used interchangeably and refer to trees that are more narrow than tall, with a ratio of height to width of 5 to 1 or greater. Species can have interesting forms, textures, shapes, fall color, fruit, flowers and fruit. Some have pendulous forms that grow upright but have drooping or weeping branches.

Many fastigiata selections have been made from naturally occurring species propagated asexually through grafting and cuttings. Often the narrow form of these trees is more pronounced when trees are young and as they mature, the form may widen.

Learn more about other columnar and fastigiata trees for Colorado in the recently published CSU Fact Sheet at: extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07427.pdf.

The CSU research team encourages landscape contractors and city arborists may to consider the following eight deciduous trees for narrow spaces as they have fared well in Colorado. | CG

Pyrus 'NCPX1' ^{PP26539} – Javelin® Pear

This hybrid inherits the fastigiata form and pink flower buds from its *Pyrus pyrifolia* parent and superior fire blight resistance from its *Pyrus calleryana* 'Cleveland Select' parent. It has a strong central leader and upright branches. Leaves emerge purple and turn bronze-green. It matures to about 20 feet in height and 12-15 feet in width.



Photo courtesy J. Frank Schmidt

Tips & Tricks: The tree is resistant to heat and drought, and is perfect for streetscapes and space-challenged landscapes.

Quercus robur 'Fastigiata' Skyrocket – Skyrocket English Oak

The upright branch attachments on a strong central leader of this oak create a columnar tree that stays narrow as it matures. The dark green leaves turn yellow-brown in fall and persist through the winter. It grows to about 35 feet in height and only 12-15 feet in width.



Photo courtesy J. Frank Schmidt

Tips & Tricks: This selection stays tighter in form than typical fastigiata English Oak.

Quercus robur x alba 'JFS-KW1QX' – Streetspire® Oak

This tree has wide crotch angles that grow upright forming a columnar tree. The green leaves with rounded lobes, turn red in the fall. Streetspire grows to about 35 feet in height and about 12 feet wide.



Photo courtesy J. Frank Schmidt

Tips & Tricks: The reddish-colored fall leaves do not persist on the tree in the winter like some hybrid oaks.

Quercus bicolor 'Bonnie and Mike' – Beacon® Oak

This is a fairly new unusually narrow form of Swamp White Oak that is tightly columnar and urban adaptable. The stout upright branch structure and dense green foliage form a narrow, leafy column as it grows to about 40 feet tall and 15 feet wide. It appears to be adaptable to urban growing conditions including compacted and alkaline soils.

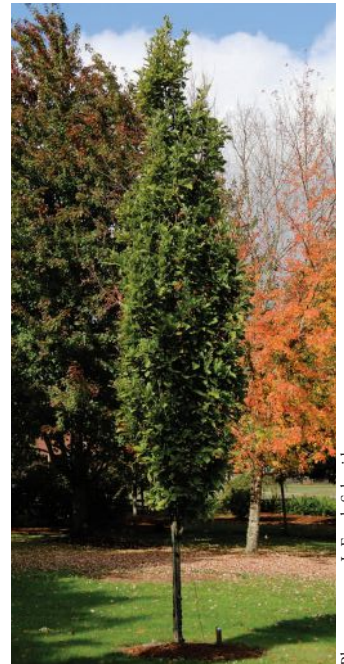


Photo courtesy J. Frank Schmidt

Tips & Tricks: Discovered by Dr. Michael Dirr, this unusually narrow form of Swamp Oak brings a new dimension to urban trees.



Zone 4



Zone 5










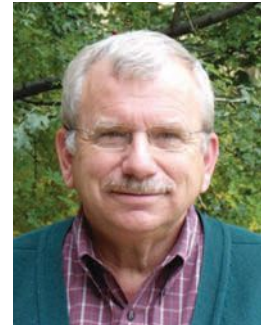
Zone 5



Zone 4 to 5

LEGEND

 Full sun	 Useful for containers
 Adapts to part shade	 Xeric
 Prefers shadier conditions	 Requires moisture
	 Requires more moisture



Contributed by James E. Klett, professor and extension landscape horticulturist, Colorado State University, department of horticulture and landscape architecture, Fort Collins.

***Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine' – Frans Fontaine Hornbeam**

This tree has attractive steel-gray bark on a distinctive trunk. Dark green leaves are deeply ridged and turn golden in the fall. It matures to about 30-35 feet in height and 15 feet in width.



Photo courtesy CSU

Tips & Tricks: The fastigate form is maintained with maturity.

***Celtis occidentalis* 'JFS-KSU1' – Prairie Sentinel® Hackberry**

This plant was discovered in the rugged high plains of western Kansas. It can reach a height of 45 feet and spread only of 12 feet. Medium-green-colored leaves turn yellow in the fall. It adapts well to heat, drought and cold on the prairie and beyond.



Photo courtesy CSU

Tips & Tricks: This is a good plant for narrow streets in very tough climates.

***Ginkgo biloba* 'Princeton Sentry' – Princeton Sentry Ginkgo**

This plant has a very narrow pyramidal, almost columnar shape with fan-shaped, lobed leaves, and light-colored bark. Foliage turns a beautiful bright yellow in fall. It grows to about 35 feet in height and 12 feet in width.



Photo courtesy J. Frank Schmidt

Tips & Tricks: Princeton Sentry is a seedless, male clone that is adaptable and nearly pest-free.

***Malus* 'Red Barron' – Red Barron Crabapple**

This crabapple has an ascending branch structure with a narrow, columnar habit maturing to about 18 feet in height and 8 feet in width. Foliage emerges purple, fading to bronze-green as it matures. Flowers are dark red followed with 1/4" size dark red fruit.



Photo courtesy J. Frank Schmidt

Tips & Tricks: This tree has good fire blight resistance and has great fall foliage color.



Zone 5



Zone 4



Zone 5



Zone 4