

# New Mexico Forestry Division

## Spring 2026 Seedling List

SPECIES	HEIGHT	GROWTH RATE	COLD HARDINESS	WATER NEEDS	ALKALINITY TOLERANCE	ELEVATION	Size
<u>APACHE PLUME</u>	4 - 6 feet	Fast	Good-Excellent	Low	Moderate-High	5000- 8000	Small
<p><b>Fallugia paradoxa</b> This native shrub occurs along the sides of dry washes and hillsides. The rose-like white flowers are showy in the early summer with feathery clusters of plume-like fruit in the fall and winter. Provides nesting sites and material for birds. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and low salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 7.0 to 8.0. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 3 through 10 below 8000 feet in elevation. The width is between 4 and 6 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> none serious. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks, erosion control, and wildlife plantings.</p>							
<u>BLACK WILLOW</u>	up to 100 feet	Fast	Good-Excellent	High	Moderate	1500- 6000	Small
<p><b>Salix nigra</b> Black willow resembles Goodding's Black willow and the two species are sometimes considered to be varieties of the same species. It occurs along streambanks and in floodplain areas. It has massive trunks that usually lean and are often divided. The crown is broad and open. Birds eat the buds and flowering catkins, and deer eat the twigs and leaves. It is also commonly used as nesting habitat by small bird species. It has low calcium carbonate tolerance and medium salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 4.8 to 8.0. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 4a through 9a below 6000 feet in elevation. <b>Pest Problems:</b> None serious. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> erosion control of streambanks, wildlife plantings</p>							
<u>BLUESTEM WILLOW</u>	up to 12 feet	Fast	Excellent	High	Low-Moderate	5200- 8500	Small
<p><b>Salix irrorata</b> This native shrub is widespread over New Mexico and occurs in thickets along rivers, creeks, and intermittent streams. It has twigs that are striking purplish-blue in color and white flowers. It has no salinity tolerance. Hardiness zones are 2 through 8 above 5200 feet. Optimum soil pH is 5.5 to 7.5. The width averages 15 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> None serious. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> Riparian restoration, streambank stabilization and wildlife plantings.</p>							
<u>CHOCKECHERRY</u>	6-20 feet	Moderate-Fast	Excellent	Moderate-High	Low	5500- 9500	Small
<p><b>Prunus virginiana</b> A native shrub or small tree that forms dense barriers. It prefers deep and sandy loam soils. It is an important species for wildlife such as bear, deer, and other animals use it for food. It is a species that minimizes stream bank erosion. Its fruit is widely used in jellies and jams. Chokecherry is self-pollinating. It has medium calcium carbonate and salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 5.2 to 8.4. It has intermediate shade tolerance. Hardiness zones are 2 through 7 at elevations between 5500 and 9500 feet. The crown width is between 10 and 20 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> borers, pear slugs, and tent caterpillar. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks, riparian restoration, and wildlife plantings.</p>							
<u>FERNBUSH</u>	6-8 feet	Moderate	Good	Low	Moderate	3000- 7000	Small
<p><b>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</b> This shrub has fragrant fern-like leaves. It produces an array of white flowers in the spring. The plant remains an evergreen in warm climates and becomes deciduous in colder climates. It is also very drought tolerant once established. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. Optimum soil pH is 7.0 to 8.0. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 4 through 9 at lower than 7000 feet in elevation. The width is 5 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> no major pests. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks, wildlife plantings, and erosion control.</p>							
<u>FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON</u>	up to 3 feet	Slow	Excellent	Low	Moderate	3000- 11000	Small
<p><b>Penstemon eatonii</b> Native plant that has bright red flowers that bloom May through August, is adaptable to various soil types. It provides forage for deer, antelope and birds. It has intermediate shade tolerance, has high calcium carbonate tolerance, and no salinity tolerance. Hardiness zones are 4 through 9. It is a pollinator for native bees. <b>Pest Problems:</b> none serious <b>Suggested Uses:</b> erosion control, reclamation, wildlife forage</p>							
<u>GOLDEN CURRANT</u>	4-6 Feet	Fast	Good	Low	Low	3000- 9000	Small
<p><b>Ribes aureum</b> A native to New Mexico in the spring the golden currant richly deserves its name - golden yellow clusters of long, trumpet-shaped, spicy fragrant flowers, adorn the shrub in abundance. The edible fruit is made into jellies and jams, and delicious pies. Golden currant is self-pollinating. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. Optimum soil pH is 6.0 to 8.0. Hardiness zones are 5 through 8 at elevations between 3000 and 9000 feet. Its shade tolerance is intermediate. The width is between 3 and 6 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> leaf rust fungus, alternate host of White Pine blister rust. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks, revegetation, erosion control (in its native range), and wildlife plantings.</p>							
<u>HOPTREE</u>	up to 25 feet	Slow-Moderate	Excellent	Low-Moderate	Moderate	4000- 9000	Small
<p><b>Ptelea trifoliata</b> This native tree also known as wafer ash reaches up to 25 feet with a crown spread of 10 to 15 feet. The leaves are trifoliolate and are four to six inches in length and turn yellow in the fall. Their flowers are inconspicuous greenish-white and have an orange blossom-like perfume. Its fruit attracts bird, squirrels and other mammals. Grows on dry, rocky slopes to valley bottoms. It has medium salinity tolerance, medium calcium carbonate tolerance, and intermediate shade tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 4.8 to 7.0. Hardiness zone is 4 through 9. <b>Pest Problems:</b> none serious <b>Suggested Uses:</b> wildlife habitat, windbreaks</p>							
<u>NARROWLEAF COTTONWOOD</u>	up to 70 feet	Fast	Good-Excellent	Moderate-High	Moderate	5000- 10000	Small
<p><b>Populus angustifolia</b> This is a native tree with willow-like leaves, common along streams in the mountains of New Mexico. It represents the principal mountain Cottonwood species. It provides cover for wildlife and is a good browse species. It has a high tolerance for calcium carbonate and low tolerance for salinity. The optimum soil pH is 6.0 to 7.5. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 3 to 8 above 5000 feet. The crown width is between 30 and 40 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> Leaf rust, fall webworm, poplar borers <b>Suggested Uses:</b> Windbreaks, Wildlife plantings, erosion control and riparian restoration,</p>							
<u>NATIVE PLUM</u>	6-8 feet	Moderate	Excellent	Moderate	Low	4500- 8000	Bare, Small
<p><b>Prunus americana</b> This is a small native tree adapted to a wide range of soils and requires supplemental watering on dry sites until established. It produces very fragrant clusters of showy white flowers in the spring and produces a sweet edible fruit. The leaves turn an orange-red in the fall. It needs cross-pollination to produce a good fruit crop. It is cold hardy and drought tolerant once established. It is an excellent choice for wildlife plantings. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and low salinity tolerance. Optimum soil pH is 5.0 to 7.0. It is shade intolerant. The crown width is between 10 and 15 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> pear slug, aphids, and powdery mildew. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks and wildlife plantings.</p>							
<u>NEW MEXICO FORESTIERA</u>	8-10 feet	Moderate	Good	Low	Moderate	4000- 7500	Small
<p><b>Forestiera neomexicana</b> Also called NM Olive or Privet, this native shrub has a broad range in New Mexico. It is widely used by birds due to the small black olive-shaped fruit it produces. It forms a dense thicket or small tree and is excellent for controlling erosion. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and medium salinity tolerance. Optimum soil pH is 7.0 to 8.5. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 4 through 9 at elevations below 7500 feet. The width is between 8 and 12 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> no serious pests. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks, wildlife plantings, and erosion control.</p>							
<u>PALMER'S PENSTEMON</u>	up to 5 feet	Moderate	Excellent	Low	Low	2600- 8200	Small
<p><b>Pestemon palmeri</b> Native to New Mexico. It is a perennial herb to slightly wood subshrub. Has fleshy leaves and has white to pink flowers that are fragrant. It is found in dry washes, grasslands, pinon-juniper and ponderosa pine communities. It is very drought and heat tolerant. It is shade intolerant, pH tolerance is 6.0 to 7.9, saline intolerant and prefers precipitation between 6 and 14 inches per year. Hardiness zones are 4 through 9 at elevations below 8200 feet. Adapted to coarse and medium textured, well-drained soils. <b>Pest Problems:</b> <b>Suggested Uses:</b> wildlife plantings and erosion control</p>							
<u>PEACHLEAF WILLOW</u>	30 feet +	Fast	Good-Excellent	High	Moderate	4500- 7400	Small
<p><b>Salix amygdaloides</b> This native tree is found along rivers and streams in rich alluvial soils. It is readily identified by its gleaming leaves and pendulous branchlets, which gives it a weeping appearance. It is an excellent species for streambank stabilization. It has medium calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 6.0 to 8.0. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 2 through 8 at elevations between 4500 and 7400 feet. The width is up to 40 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> None serious <b>Suggested Uses:</b> Riparian restoration, streambank stabilization and wildlife plantings.</p>							
<u>PIÑON</u>	up to 40 feet	Slow	Good-Excellent	Low	Moderate-High	3500- 8500	Small
<p><b>Pinus edulis</b> The New Mexico state tree is an aromatic pine which grows across a wide variety of soils and does well under cultivation. It is popular for the edible nuts it produces. Under most conditions it is self-pollinating. It has high value for upland game and songbirds. It is very drought tolerant, but slow growing. It has low calcium carbonate tolerance and medium salinity tolerance. Hardiness zones are 6 through 8. Optimum soil pH is 6.5 to 8.5. The crown width is between 20 and 30 feet. <b>Pest Problems:</b> Ips bark beetle, piñon needle scale, needle miner, twig beetle, and pitch moth. <b>Suggested Uses:</b> windbreaks, reforestation, and Christmas trees.</p>							

**PONDEROSA PINE** up to 80 feet Moderate Excellent Moderate Moderate-High 4500- 9000 Small

**Pinus ponderosa** This is a large, native conifer. It is the primary commercial tree species in New Mexico. It has a pyramidal shape when young and becomes conical with age. Squirrels clip the cones and store them in caches and extract the seeds for winter consumption. The tree grows best on well-drained soils. It has low calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 5.0 to 9.0. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 3 through 9 at elevations above 4500 feet. The crown width is between 25 and 30 feet. **Pest Problems:** bark beetle, twig beetle, sawflies and dwarf mistletoe. **Suggested Uses:** windbreaks and reforestation.

**REDOSIER DOGWOOD** 6-9 feet Moderate Good High Moderate 5500- 9000 Small

**Cornus stolonifera** Redosier prefers moist sites along streams and around swampy or boggy land. This native species is readily noticed due to its red twigs and white berries in the fall. The flowers grow in clusters and are tiny and white. It has no calcium carbonate tolerance and low salinity tolerance. Optimum soil pH is 4.8 to 7.5. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 2 through 7 at elevations between 5500 and 9000 feet. The width is between 8 and 10 feet. **Pest Problems:** No major pests **Suggested Uses:** Riparian or wetland plantings.

**RIO GRANDE COTTONWOOD** 60+ feet Fast Good High Low-Moderate 2500- 7500 Small

**Populus deltoides ssp. Wislizeni** One of New Mexico's most beloved trees, this cottonwood grows chiefly along the lower valleys and along slower waters. It is an excellent species for stabilizing streams. Birds also use it for nesting purposes. Beavers use it for dams. The leaves turn a golden yellow just before the leaves fall. It has medium calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 5.0 to 7.0. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 3 through 9 at elevations below 7500. The average crown width is 40 feet. **Pest Problems:** no major pests. **Suggested Uses:** riparian restoration, stream bank stabilization, and wildlife plantings.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN PENSTEMON** up to 3 feet Moderate Excellent Low Low 6000- 11000 Small

**Penstemon strictus** Is a native perennial herb with deep blue to purple flowers. It is used for erosion control and forage for deer, antelope and birds. It is shade intolerant, prefers well-drained soils, and blooms May through July. The preferred pH is 6.0-8.0. It has low calcium carbonate tolerance, no salinity tolerance, and has moderate drought tolerance. Hardiness zones are 4 through 9 at elevations 6000 feet and above. **Pest Problems:** None noted. **Suggested Uses:** erosion control, wildlife forage

**SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL** up to 4 feet Slow Good-Excellent Low Moderate 6500- 11500 Small

**Potentilla fruticosa** Native drought tolerant shrub that has small yellow 5-petalled blossoms that are present from June through September. It is attractive to butterflies and is also forage for mule deer. This shrub is also known by the name Potentilla. The bark is brown and shreddy in color. It has medium calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 5.0 to 8.0. It has intermediate shade tolerance but prefers full sun. Hardiness zones are 3 through 7. The width is between 2 and 4 feet. **Pest Problems:** none serious. **Suggested Uses:** erosion control, wildlife plantings, and windbreaks.

**WAX CURRANT** 4-6 feet Slow-Moderate Good-Excellent Low Moderate 5000- 13000 Small

**Ribes cereum** This attractive fragrant native shrub produces pink flowers in the spring and red fruit in the late summer. This plant is abundant over rocky slopes and in dry and open woods. It does well in areas of limited precipitation. It has high calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 6.5-7.5. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 5 through 8 at elevations above 5000 feet. The width is between 3 and 5 feet. **Pest Problems:** None serious. **Suggested Uses:** Wildlife habitat and erosion control

**WINTERFAT** 3-4 feet Fast Good-Excellent Low Moderate-High 3000- 8000 Small

**Ceratoides lanata** Winterfat is a hardy, native half-shrub with a wide range throughout New Mexico. It grows on dry, well-drained soils, 3000 - 8000 feet in elevation, and can tolerate saline or alkaline soils. It is superior winter forage for livestock and used extensively by wildlife. The seed heads in the fall give the plant a pleasing silvery appearance. The long white fuzzy plumes give it another name: "Lamb's Tail". It has high calcium carbonate and salinity tolerance. The optimum soil pH is 6.6 to 8.5. It is shade intolerant. Hardiness zones are 3 through 8 at elevations lower than 8000 feet. The average width is 3 feet. **Pest Problems:** no major pests. **Suggested Uses:** erosion control, range improvement, and wildlife plantings.