

# Tree E – News

## Colorado State Forest Service

### April 2014

#### **New State Tree for Utah**

All fifty states in the United States of America have selected a state tree. A few states have selected a group of tree species to be their special tree. For example: Arkansas selected pines; Iowa has oaks; and Mississippi chose magnolia. Some states share a particular tree species: sugar maple (New York, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Vermont); tulip poplar (Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee); white oak (Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland). A couple states are very unique and have a tree that was named after them; the Ohio buckeye and the Colorado blue spruce.

The Colorado blue spruce was first discovered on Pikes Peak in 1862 by botanist C.C. Parry, and named by George Engelmann in 1879. In 1892, Colorado school children voted to name the Colorado blue spruce as the state tree, but it was not until 1939 that the tree was officially adopted as the state tree by the state legislature.

Colorado and Utah have shared the blue spruce as their state tree since 1939. The tree is native to the mountains of both states. In fact, according to the American Forests – National Register of Big Trees the reigning national champion Colorado blue spruce is in the Ashley National Forest in Utah. When last measured the tree is 129 feet tall with a diameter of 61 inches.

This year the Governor of Utah signed a bill designating the Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) as the **new state tree**. The idea of changing the Utah's tree was championed by the Monroe Elementary fourth grade class in Sevier County. The Aspen tree is more common to Utah than the blue spruce.



Colorado blue spruce  
*Picea pungens*

#### **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update**

The EAB Incident Management Team (IMT), which is composed of representatives from City of Boulder Forestry, Colorado Department of Agriculture, USDA-APHIS, CSU Extension, Colorado State Forest Service, and University of Colorado – Boulder, continues to meet and collaborate on information, strategies, and control efforts. This EAB-IMT group is now reaching out to groups like GreenCO and the Front Range Urban Forestry Council (FRUFC) to develop common shared messaging for the public's benefit in regards to identification and management of EAB. GreenCO member associations include: Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC), Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals, Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association, Garden Centers of Colorado, International Society of Arboriculture Rocky Mountain Chapter, and the Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association. GreenCO maintains a very informative website, [www.greenco.org](http://www.greenco.org). You can download the updated Front Range Tree Recommendation List from this site. With the arrival of EAB in Colorado, planting of all ashes is being strongly discouraged, and this is addressed in the Front Range Tree Recommendation list.

FRUFC has an active membership of city forestry staff from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs. This group meets regularly and has been discussing EAB for several years. Now that EAB is here the group's focus will be on sharing branch sampling information, pest management strategies, planting information, and other subject matter that will help each community collaboratively deal with the impending EAB problem.

The best one-stop shopping site for EAB information continues to be the Colorado Department of Agriculture website [www.eabcolorado.com](http://www.eabcolorado.com). This website has up-to-date information on EAB identification, control options, and numerous videos and pictures that enhance the written word.

#### **Arbor Day 2014**

Since 1889, the third Friday in April has been set apart and known as "Arbor Day" in Colorado. This year Colorado's official Arbor Day will be April 18th and marks the 125th year that this tree planter's holiday will be celebrated in this state. The last Friday in April is the traditional Arbor Day for the whole country. This year that date is April 25th. Celebrating Arbor Day is a requirement for being a Tree City USA and a Tree Campus USA in good standing. "He who plants a tree, plants a hope." *Lucy Larcom*