Photo 1 Photo 2 Photo 3 Photo 4 Photo 5 Photo 6 Photo 7

Ahh – To Grow A Garden – So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – July 2009 - The Beauty of Utah Native Trees and Shrubs - For reference Taylorsville City is USDA Hardiness zone 7A. Utah We Love Thee, was the former "Utah State Song" but we love your trees more. For other Utah facts see the following page, portions of the Utah facts, were taken from the Utah Department of Community and Culture web page.

The Best known of the Utah's Native Trees is Colorado Blue Spruce and is the official state trees of both Colorado and Utah. It is a species of spruce native to western North America from Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and into northern New Mexico and Arizona. It is a magnificent sight of silver blue-green needles that grows at elevations between 6,000 to 11,000 feet. The Colorado Blue Spruce is an attractive tree and one of the most popular ornamental conifers. It has many positive attributes that make it a good landscaping tree for yards with magnificent color, a conical shape when young and adaptive to many so soils conditions. The deep penetrating root system makes the species resistant to high winds and is a good wind barrier tree, that makes it more wind tolerant than other western Spruce trees. It is an excellent border tree that provides year round screening as well as a protective summertime nesting opportunity for many songbirds. The species height reaches 65 to 115 feet at maturity with a trunk diameter of 2 to 3 feet. As trees become older, they often take on a more irregular appearance. The Colorado Blue Spruce grows relatively slowly, however, it is long-lived and may reach an age of 600 to 800 years old. The bark is thin when young, becoming moderately thick with age that turns reddish brown and furrowed. The Colorado Blue Spruce is a moderately shade tolerant shade tree and does not occur in large stands by itself, but is found in small groves or in association with Douglas-Fir, Lodge Pole Pine, Engelmann Spruce or Ponderosa Pine. The Colorado Blue Spruce trees can be grown in United States Department Agriculture (USDA) Hardiness zones 3 to 7, (Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Utah Juniper is a shrub or small tree native to the southwestern United States (US), in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, southern Montana, southern Idaho and eastern California. Utah Juniper is common on dry plains, plateaus, and the lower elevations of the mountains of Utah and at elevations between 4,000 and 7,500 feet. It is common in elevations below Pinyon Pine stands, and above the sagebrush-grass zone on dry soils. The Utah Juniper is usually a bushy tree in appearance, with a rounded crown, and a trunk that may be forked or occasionally with a central dominant trunk. It has an extensive root system the enables it to vigorously compete for moisture. Mature trees are usually less than 30 feet high. Utah Junipers can live to be 650 years old, USDA zones 4 to 8, (Photos 6, 7, 8, and 9).

Mountain Mahogany is a small genus of five or six species of deciduous shrubs or small trees in the rose family, native to the western US and northern Mexico, where they grow in semi-desert climates, often at high elevations with one to several trunks. It grows, 3 to 15 feet tall, but can reach up the 35 feet tall. It characteristically grows in scattered groves on rocky slopes, ridges, and in canyons, and is somewhat shade tolerant. The trunk bark is reddish-brown, and deeply grooved. The Mountain Mahogany has very fragrant flowers in May to July, and begins producing seeds at approximately 15 years old, USDA zones 3 to 7.

P**inyon Pine** is native to the southwestern US and Mexico. It grows as far north as Fort Collins, Colorado and often with native Junipers. There are vast areas of Four Corners region of the US that are referred to as Pinon-Juniper Woodlands. The trees yield edible Pinyon nuts, which were a staple of the Native Americans Indians, and are still widely eaten. The fragrance of the wood, especially when burned, is unmistakable. The name originates from the 1500s Spanish explorers, who named the tree Pino Piñonero, or nut-bearing pine. Pinyon Pines are small relatively slow-growing pines. The bark is dark and rough, taking nearly 200 years to produce a one foot diameter trunk. Their lifespan range from 150 years, but an old Pinyon Pine may be more than 500 years old, and may live as long as 1,000 years old. It ranges from 10 feet to 200 foot tall trees. Once established, the trees may start nut production as early as eight years, and they will continue nut production for their lifespan. It is the state tree of New Mexico, and is found at elevations of between 5,000 and 7,000 feet, USDA zones 4 to 8, (Photos 10 and 11).

Bristlecone Pine is a very long-lived tree with very fragrant bark and needles. In fact it is oldest of all living things to 4,900 years. It is native to the arid western mountain ranges of the US. Male flowers or catkins are red/purple, and is a good choice for bonsai inside or outside. The trunk produces a very interesting furrowed bark, with a twisting gnarled form often with multi trunks. A root cutting was reported taken from a 10,000 year old tree appearing to be dead, that produced a tree. The roots were still alive, so the tree was alive when the last ice age ended, Height 20 to 40 Feet, USDA zones 4 to 7, (Photos 12 and 13).

Photo 8 Photo 9 Photo 10 Photo 11 Photo 12 Photo 13

Limber Pine is a species of pine tree that occurs in the mountains of the Western US and Canada from the sub-alpine areas of the Rocky Mountains from southwest Alberta south to the Mexican border; the Great Basin mountains of Nevada and Utah; and the White Mountains, the east slope of the Sierra Nevada and the San Bernardino Mountains in California with a small population in the South Dakota. They are a small to medium pine tree with an uneven crown that is often multi-stemmed, with a gnarled twisting trunk, often used as windbreaks, and providing cover and food for wildlife, Height 30 to 50 feet, USDA zones 4 to 8, (Photo 14).

The **State of Utah** is a western state, and was the 45th state admitted to the US in 1896. Approximately 80 percent of Utah's 2,736,424 people live along the Wasatch Front. In contrast, vast expanses of the state are nearly uninhabited, making it the sixth most urbanized state in the U.S. The name Utah is derived from the Ute Indian language, meaning “People of the Mountains”.

Utah State Slogan. The state has had several slogans over the years, the most famous of which was “The Greatest Snow on Earth”, commonly used since 1962. Governor Leavitt approved a new state slogan, “Utah Where Ideas Connect” in 2001. In 2006, Governor Huntsman announced that “Life Elevated” would be the new state slogan.

Utah State Animal is the Rocky Mountain Elk. It became the official state animal in 1971. Elk were once found over most of the US and southern Canada, but they survive only in regions west of the Rocky Mountains. The largest herds live in Yellowstone Park, on Montana's Sun River, Washington's Olympic Mountains, and they are also plentiful on most mountain ranges in Utah. Elk are a member of the deer family, and live in close association with the deer and moose, (Photo 15).

Utah State Bird is the California Gull. It became the official state bird in 1955. The gull is considered the state bird of Utah by common consent, probably in commemoration of the fact that gulls saved the early Utah pioneers by eating up the Mormon crickets which were destroying the crops in 1848. California Gulls are a white bird with gray streaks, and is about two feet long and are aeronautic wizards. The gymnasts of the sky, make the seemingly impossible appear effortless. Gulls can appear motionless in midair by catching wind currents with perfect timing and precision while positioning their bodies at just the right angle. Gulls are quiet birds, considered beneficial by agriculturalists, and are gentle creatures, (Photo 16).

Utah State Insect is the Honey Bee. It became officially designated in 1983, is significant in Utah history, as Utah was first called by its Mormon settlers, the provisional State of Deseret, a Book of Mormon word meaning honey bee, (Photo 17, and 18).

Utah State Emblem is the Beehive. It became the official state emblem in 1959. Utahans relate the beehive symbol to industry and the pioneer virtues of thrift and perseverance. The beehive was chosen as the emblem for the provisional State of Deseret in 1848 and was maintained on the seal of the State of Utah when Utah became a state in 1896.

Utah State Fish is the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. It became the official state fish in 1997, after having the Rainbow Trout as the state fish. The Bonneville Cutthroat is native to Utah and was important to the Indians and the Mormon pioneers as a source of food. There are some that speculate the Utah pioneers were saved from starvation by catching and eating the fish (Photo 19).

Utah State Tree is the Colorado Blue Spruce. It became the official state tree in 1933, and is found in the Wasatch and Uinta Mountain Ranges see above discussion of the positive attributes of the beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce.

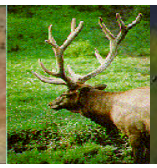
Utah State Flower is the Sego Lily. It was became the official state flower in 1911. When food became very scarce in Utah the early Pioneers dug and ate the soft, bulbous root of the Sego Lily. The memory of this use, quite as much as the natural beauty of the flower, caused it to be selected as the floral emblem of the State. The Sego Lily has white, lilac, or yellow flowers and grows six to eight inches high on open grass and sage rangelands in the Great Basin during the summer, (Photo20).

Utah State Gem is Topaz. It became the state gem in 1969. It is a semiprecious gem found in Beaver, Juab and Tooele counties. Topaz is generally known as a yellow or golden gemstone, this gem next in hardness to diamonds, (Photo 21).

Utah State Mineral is Copper. It became the state mineral in 1994. It is a versatile and widely used mineral due mainly to its conductive properties (of heat and electricity). It is used in electronics, plumbing, transportation, and in alloys (a mixture of two or more metals). Most of Utah the copper is mined from Kennecott's Copper mine on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley.

Utah State Rock is Coal. It became the state rock in 1991. It originates as plant matter that accumulates up in wetlands and bogs. Coal is found in 17 of Utah's 29 counties but mainly concentrated in Emery and Carbon Counties.

Photo 14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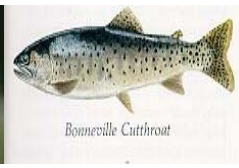

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Photo 21