

Suggested Trees for University Ridge

Small to Medium Trees (generally under 35' tall in Reno):

Evergreens (may need monthly watering in winter if no snow or rain):

Mugo (Swiss Mountain) and Tanyosho Pines (bushes that can grow to small trees).
Bosnian Pine (*Pinus Heldricheii*). Smaller than Austrian Pine, similar appearance.
Vanderwolf Pine. Beautiful bi-color needles like white pines, but a smaller tree.
Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*). Can live for 4,000 years. Needs little water.
Junipers.
Both green and blue types. Easy to grow. Good privacy or wind screen.
Blue Spruce (*Picea glauca*). Smaller ones include "Fat Albert" and "Bacherii"
Dwarf Alberta Spruce. Mini-Christmas tree look. Don't overdo it.
Mountain Mahogany. Not a conifer, a native multi-stemmed bush that gets tall.
Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus glabra*); can grow to medium height.
Fir (*Abies*). Some compact or alpine varieties stay small. Care needed.

Deciduous (lose their leaves and go dormant in winter):

Flowering Ornamental Fruit Trees (fruiting types available too):
Apple/Crabapple (*Malus*). Some have small fruits & can be messy.
Pear (*Pyrus*) Several varieties incl. Aristocrat, Chanticleer. Avoid Bradford.
Cherry/Plum (*Prunus*). Many choices, green or dark red/purple leaves.
Locust (*Robinia*). A few small types. Thorns. "Purple Robe" Locust needs sheltering.
Honey Locust (*Gleditsia*). Dramatic light green foliage. Easy to grow; needs pruning.
Maple (*Acer*). A few small varieties: Amur, Hedge, Box Elder, etc. Japanese maples need a sheltered spot. Most maples are medium to very large in size.
Golden Rain (*Koelreuteria*) A great small tree for our area. Yellow blooms.
Ash (*Fraxinus*). A few types, such a "Raywood", stay fairly small. Most are bigger.
Mountain Ash (*Sorbus*). Not a true ash, and a bit messy. White flowers, red berries.
Smoke Tree. A dark-leaved bush that grows to a small tree.
Hawthorn (*Crataegus*). Even "thornless" may have thorns. Needs pruning. Blooms.
Also consider: Redbud (*Cercis*) and Fruitless Mulberry (*Morus*)

Medium to Large Trees (35-80' tall, so be very aware of view issues):

Evergreens

Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra*) are easy to grow, affordable, and common.
Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*) is a dramatic specimen tree.
Scotch Pine shows visible cones; an old favorite partly replaced by Austrian Pine.
Southwestern White Pine has beautiful bi-color foliage. Eastern White Pine is too big.
Spruce, Green and Blue (*Picea*). Colorado Green/Blue are popular, affordable, tough;
Baby Blue Eyes is another large Blue Spruce with bright new growth.

Deciduous

Ash (*Fraxinus*). Several varieties take drought and wind. Green ash may get aphids. Marshall (seedless), Patmore, Urbanite, Purple, and others available.
Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*). Sheltered location only; watch for aphids.
Oak (*Quercus*). Pin Oak, White Swamp Oak, Sawtooth, Blue, etc. don't get huge.
Maple (*Acer*). Many varieties, both red and green: Norway, Celebration, October Glory, Autumn Blaze, Emerald Queen, Fairview, Red Sunset, Crimson King, etc.
Elms are generally banned in Reno, but try similar Zelkova or Hackberry for shade.
Zelkova serrata, or Vase Tree, may need some pruning but is hardy and fast-growing.
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is another hardy shade tree alternative to the Elm.
Sycamore/London Plane. "Bloodgood" isn't too big. Spiky fruits; shallow roots.
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar*) Spiny fruits tough on lawnmowers, so not good in turf.
Exotics: consider Maidenhair (*Gynko*), Silk Tree (*Mimosa*), Umbrella Catalpa

Very Large (Probably out of scale for our lot sizes):

Giant Sequoia and other Redwoods
Jeffrey, Ponderosa, Eastern White Pines
Sycamore/London Plane (except "Bloodgood")
Silver Maple (shallow roots), Sugar Maple, and other large maples
Norway Spruce and very large Spruces
The mighty Oaks (some varieties are smaller; see Medium to Large Deciduous Trees)
Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Tree Planting Tips:

1. Give it room to grow. Not too close to the house, other structures or property lines.
 2. Dig the hole wide but not deep. Keep the root crown at surface level.
 3. Stake with soft, flexible ties for the first year or so, then remove staking.
 4. Water at planting, and 2-3 times a week until established, then deep water about once a week (water needs vary widely from species to species).
 5. Mulch around tree, but not right against the trunk.
 6. If a sprinkler system doesn't reach the tree, hook up a drip system. If you don't have an irrigation system, you can run a drip line on a timer directly from your outdoor tap for under \$100 in material costs.
- For fire safety, don't plant oily plants (Junipers, Mt. Mahogany, Sage) near houses. Don't forget to submit your application to the Architectural Review Committee. Fall is a good time to plant, so you have time to make a careful decision.

Sources: Landscaping in the Truckee Meadows, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Nevada Gardener's Guide, by Mills & Post, revised edition, 2004
Xeriscape Plant Guide, Edited by David Winger of Denver Water, 1996