

Glossary of Terms

The following terms encountered in the text of *Trees for Townsend* may be unfamiliar. For more details about soil conditions, tree diseases, and other subjects, consult a field guide or other technical source.

Acidic soil: Low pH soil

“Adverse” conditions: Wind, drought, poor soil, temperature extremes in any combination.

Alkaline soil: High pH soil. The Townsend/Helena tends to have alkaline soils.



Broadleaves: Trees that bear flat leaves that vary greatly in shape and fall off in winter.

Bronze birch borer: A small slender beetle native to North America whose larva tunnel under them bark, girdling a branch or trunk, and cutting off the flow of sap. Tree death is almost certain.

Canker: A localized disease area or lesion in tree bark, usually caused by fungi and often resulting in an open wound. *Cytospora* canker is very common in most Cottonwoods and Poplars.

Catkin: A compound bloom consisting of scaly bracts and flowers usually of one sex. Pussy Willows are an example.

Cedar/Hawthorn rust: A fungus of Hawthorns, Rocky Mountain Juniper, and some Cedars. To survive, the fungus must “move” from one type of host to another, i.e. from a Juniper to a Hawthorn.

Clay soil: Fine-textured soil that holds water and doesn’t drain well.

Cone: Seed bearing structure of certain trees.



Conifer: A tree that bears cones.

Cultivar: ‘Cultivated variety’ (cv.). A unique form or type propagated and maintained for specific purposes. In this booklet we also use the term ‘selection’ to indicate plants that have been produced for specific purposes.

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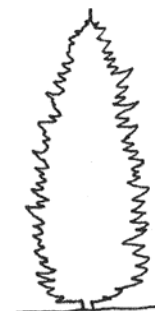
Deciduous: Trees that drop their leaves or needles in the autumn.

Dutch Elm disease: A vascular wilt disease caused by beetles that burrow and lay eggs in dying or dead Elm wood, distributing the fungus *Ceratocystis ulmi*.

Evergreen: A tree that retains at least some leaves through winter.

Flower: Reproductive structure of a plant.

Fruit: Seed bearing part of a plant.



Gallmite: Microscopic carrot-shaped mites that become active in early spring and feed on new leaves, causing an unsightly but not damaging gall.

Genus: Closely related species. Plural of genus is genera.

Hybrid: Cross between two species.

Leaf: Plant structure which is the primary location for photosynthesis. Long slender leaves are often referred to as needles.



Microclimate: The localized area where you plant a tree. Trees respond differently to being planted on the south side of the house or the north side of the house. This is a response to the microclimate created by the house.

Needles: Long, slender leaves typical of many gymnosperms, which are trees usually known as softwoods, conifers, or evergreens.



Pheromones: A hormone produced by a plant that attracts insects.

Rhizomes: Underground stems that are often confused with roots. These stems produce new plants in species like some Cottonwoods, Poplars, and Staghorn Sumac.

Rust: Fungus that causes discoloring, of leaves and causes them to fall earlier than normal.

Samaras: The fruit produced by Maples and Siberian Elm.

Species: Taxonomic classification below genus. Also, a group of individuals set apart from other species by consistent differences in morphology, ecology, or reproductive behavior.

Spruce Gall Aphid: Tiny sap-sucking insects that inject a growth hormone into a tree that causes the formation of little aphid homes or “galls” that can destroy the beauty and symmetry of the tree.



Subspecies: Taxonomic classification below species. Also, a group of individuals set apart from a species by consistent differences in morphology, ecology, or reproductive behavior.

Suckers: Shoots that form on the bud of a root or stem, which sometimes become invasive.

Taxonomic: Dealing with the description, classification, and naming of organisms.

Test Winter: Generally a winter much colder than usual. Some experts say a test winter occurs about once every ten years.

Urban Pollution: A compilation of air, water, and soil contaminants, and conditions in cities, which alters the chemical, biological, and/or physical balance that trees need to thrive. The term may also encompass soil compaction caused by paving, driving, building, etc.



Variety: Taxonomic classification below the level of species, which indicates morphological or genetic differences.

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