

Feature Tree – 2008
Fruitless Mulberry

Fruitless mulberry, *Morus alba* (Moraceae family)

Habit: Tree has a round habit as a young tree becoming very broad and spreading as it matures. An excellent choice for school grounds and parks where there is plenty of room to spread out.

Hardiness: Zone 5 to 6

Leaves: Bright green lustrous leaves create a dense shade. Fall foliage color can be yellow but is not particularly showy.

Twigs: On one year-old branches the bark is a light green turning light gray in couple years and gray-brown with maturity.

Bark: The main trunk is gray and slightly furrowed.

Flowers: This is a male selection and the flowers are insignificant.

Fruit: Because this tree is a male it has no seeds.

Landscape Value: Mulberry is usually very tolerant of soil type, alkalinity and droughty conditions. Establishes easily and for the most part is a problem free tree. The growth habit is very dense so it needs to be pruned on a regular basis to avoid internal shading of branches. This internal shading will kill small branches giving the tree an untidy appearance. In the summer of 2002 when all of Colorado was experiencing a severe drought, well-established fruitless mulberry showed no ill effects.

Diseases/Insects: No major pest problems observed on this tree.

Information Sources:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, Michael A. Dirr