



Climate Ready Tree Demonstration Site: Goals & Requirements

Background information about Climate Ready Trees

Climate Ready Trees is a collaborative program made possible by the US Forest Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and numerous arboriculture experts. The program is administered by the State of New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division (Division).

Climate variability and extreme weather events occur across the country with increasing frequency. Trees are a casualty and yet trees can also be a solution. Community trees can act to reduce heat islands, protect water quality, mitigate stormwater runoff, and provide a host of other social and environmental services. To reap these benefits proper tree species selection is crucial. These trees need to be able to withstand urban conditions and be adaptable to changing and extreme climate conditions.

The Climate Ready Trees Program is designed to identify and get climate adaptable tree species that can survive current conditions and climatic changes over the next century into our urban landscape. Using climate modeling future climate zones were determined for New Mexico. Then a rigorous review protocol evaluated potential trees species adaptability and tolerances to urban and climate conditions. Now demonstration sites are needed to introduce these new species into the urban landscape demonstration and to inform the public and growers about these new species.

Why become a Demonstration Site?

Governmental entities (including tribes and schools) and nonprofits may apply to receive trees that will be distributed and planted in Climate Ready Demonstration Sites (Demonstration Sites). These sites will provide educational opportunities for the public and allow for observations on how Climate Ready Trees perform under local and regional conditions.

- Demonstration Sites are eligible to receive a limited number of plants at no charge.
- Demonstration Sites will be listed on the Division website and in other publications.

Purpose of Demonstration Sites

- To increase public awareness of Climate Ready Trees.
- To introduce Climate Ready Trees into the community plant palate.
- To evaluate the performance of Climate Ready Trees in real world conditions

Responsibilities for Demonstration Sites

- Site owner accepts responsibility for tree including planting, watering, and other maintenance according to general standards provided by Urban and Community Forester;
- Site owner accepts all responsibility and liability for the tree(s);
- Division shall not be responsible for any water, maintenance, or removal costs associated with tree planting;
- Division shall not be liable for any damage from tree(s) following planting;
- Site Owner must display any provided signage identifying the tree as part of this program



Application Process

An application must be approved by the Division to become a Climate Ready Trees Demonstration Site.

This application includes:

- a written plan (including size and location of site);
- description of educational efforts;
- a description of how the trees will be maintained, and
- description of volunteers or staff.

Applications will also be assessed on the regional needs for a Demonstration Site in a particular area, species compatibility, tree availability, and the extent in which educational efforts, maintenance and staff or volunteers are utilized by the site owner.

To maintain status as an official Climate Ready Tree Demonstration Site, each site must:

- Complete a performance survey annually for the lifetime of the tree.
- Submit 4-6 photos or electronic images from current season, showing the overall site, the general setting, signage, any activities that have taken place, etc.
- Maintain the requirements for Climate Ready Tree Demonstration Sites

Cost and Compensation

- The Division does not compensate Demonstration Sites for planting or other expenses.

Termination

- If a site is unable to meet the above requirements, the site's administrator should contact the Division as soon as possible to be removed from the public listings.
- If the Division deems that a site does not meet the requirements listed above, contact will be made with the site, and it may be removed from public listings.

