

Have you ever wondered what the most common tree is in the National Park System? Have you ever wondered what the 10 most common trees are? Well, Jim Bennett in the Air and Water Quality Division has also and he set out to find out with the help of Gary Waggoner and Nancy Thorwardson and the NPFLORA data base. At the time they used NPFLORA the data base contained 45 national parks, all of them air quality class I areas. The following list, therefore is pretty much limited to class I parks, but it will be updated as more parks are added to the data base. Here they are:

The 10 Most Widespread Trees in the Class I Parks

Species	Number of parks
1. <i>Populus tremula</i> ssp. <i>tremuloides</i>	28
2. <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	26
3. <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	22
4. <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	22
5. <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	18
6. <i>Acer negundo</i>	16
7. <i>Populus angustifolia</i>	16
8. <i>Salix scouleriana</i>	16
9. <i>Acer glabrum</i>	15
10. <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>	15

The common names for these trees, respectively, are: quaking aspen, choke cherry, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, boxelder, narrowleaf cottonwood, scouler willow, Rocky Mountain maple, and mountain mahogany. The large number of western species is due to the bulk of the class I parks being in the western U.S.