

# Contact Form

Submission Time  
Dec 22, 2025, 06:13 PM

Montana Tree Failure Database - Short Form (Version 1.0)      \*required

Tree species	Colorado blue spruce
Site Location-City	Townsend, MT
Site Location-Address	South Cherry Street
Date of inspection / Date of Failure	<a href="tel:+14064314615">+1 406 431 4615</a>
Weather conditions at time of failure	windy 55 mph from the west
Tree condition at time of inspection	Fair
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Observations/Opinion	Private tree, 40' tall, 16" DBH, Colorado blue spruce, entire tree failed with root ball intact. Tree hasn't been watered for over 5 years and the tree was showing signs of drought stress. Ground was not frozen and the site was dry.
Other notes	Tree failed from west to east. Ninnty percent of our tree failures in Townsend over the last 20 years have been from the northwest to the southeast. Colorado blue spruces typically fail in summer thunderstorms when the ground is saturated and the ground is not frozen. The three trees that failed from this storm had issues. One Colorado blue spruce had co-dominant trunks and a weak attachment with a lot of included bark. This spruce was stressed from not being watered for at least 5 years. Finally, an unpruned female green ash lost the top half of the tree. This is one tree that I show people on our tree tours what our ash trees used to look like before we started pruning them 20 years ago. p half of its trunk
Report submitted by (with credentials)	Patrick Plantenberg, Townsend Tree Board and Chair MUCFA