

# University of Texas at Austin – Facilities Services

## Desirable Tree Species List

\* denotes preferred

**LARGE SIZE (40+ FEET TALL) REQUIRES MINIMUM 30 FOOT SPACING**

	Advantages	Use and Limitations
<b>American elm</b> <i>Ulmus americana var.</i>	Graceful arching vase-like growth form with beautiful symmetrical crown of spreading branches. Upwards of 30 Dutch elm disease resistant cultivars now available. Easy to transplant	Prefers full sun and well drained soils. Good heat tolerance. Susceptible to Dutch elm disease but still a health population of them in Texas.
<b>Bald cypress*</b> <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Deciduous conifer adaptable to wet or semi dry conditions. Does well in full sun. Majestic tree with fine textured appearance.	Develops knees when exposed to standing water. Will require supplemental irrigation during summer months. Cones and seeds prone to staining. Can become chlorotic in high alkaline soils.
<b>Bur oak*</b> <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	One of the fastest and easiest growing oaks. Commonly lives to 200-300 years. Adapts well to urban conditions.	Large acorn can become hazardous. Avoid around vehicles and pedestrians.
<b>Chinquapin oak*</b> <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Attractive fall color, Does best in well-drained soil and adapts to many different soil types. Grows in full sun.	Acorns desired by squirrels which have a tendency to remove the tender bark of this tree when young. Seldom troubles by disease or pests.
<b>Plateau live oak*</b> <i>Quercus fusiformis</i>	Native Live oak of the area. Handles drought and alkaline soils better than Coastal live oak cousin.	Susceptible to oak wilt fungus and spreading through root grafting. Has tendency to develop root sprouts under canopy.
<b>Monterey oak*</b> <i>Quercus polymorpha</i>	Drought tolerant suitable for xeriscaping. Long lived, fast growing remains evergreen for most of the year.	A university favorite, rapidly becoming a popular landscape tree which can affect availability in larger sizes. A must in any landscape plan.
<b>Montezuma cypress*</b> <i>Taxodium mucronatum</i>	Does not produce cypress knees. Drought tolerant and fast growing.	Can grow twice as fast as Bald cypress counterpart.
<b>Pecan*</b> <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	State tree. Desirable edible nut. Large slow growing tree. Staple in local landscapes.	Weight of fruit on limbs can cause clearance issues. Prone to tent caterpillar, fall webworm and squirrel damage. Slow growing and difficult to transplant.
<b>Shumard oak*</b> <i>Quercus shumardii</i>	One of the largest red oaks. Tolerant of various ph levels. Long lived. A staple in local landscapes.	Difficult finding quality container root stock in Texas. Susceptible to oak wilt.

<p><b>Southern live oak*</b> <i>Quercus virginiana</i></p>	<p>Majestic and long lived ph adaptable and can tolerate drought and poor soils. Semi evergreen. A popular staple in local landscapes.</p>	<p>Susceptible to oak wilt fungus and spreading through root grafting. Requires constant clearance pruning for vehicles and pedestrians. Recognize over abundance of this species on campus.</p>
<p><b>Mexican sycamore</b> <i>Platanus Mexicana</i></p>	<p>More drought, insect and disease tolerant than American counterpart. Attractive leaves.</p>	<p>Will require full sun and plenty of room. Can be prone to anthracnose and bacterial leaf scorch.</p>
<p><b>Walnut</b> <i>Juglans nigra</i></p>	<p>Distinctive tree. Genetically superior cultivars currently available.</p>	<p>Fruit, can be messy. Weight of fruit can create limb clearance issues. Tree extremely allelopathic (. Avoid near sidewalks and vehicles.</p>

**MEDIUM SIZE (20-40 FEET TALL) REQUIRES 20 FOOT SPACING**

	Advantages	Use and Limitations
<b>Arizona Cypress*</b> <i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Very drought and heat tolerant. evergreen, can be grown in full sun.	Pyramidal shape, susceptible to juniper blight in highly irrigated situations. Avoid placing in clay soil due to wind throw.
<b>Big Tooth Maple</b> <i>Acer grandidentatum</i>	Beautiful red and yellow fall color. Relatively drought tolerant. Commonly grows in limestone soils.	Cannot be over watered. Slightly allelopathic. Short life span. May require training.
<b>Cedar Elm*</b> <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Drought tolerant once established. Grows in a variety of soils. A popular staple in local landscapes.	Susceptible to storm damage in high winds. Should not be placed in planters or tree wells surrounded by concrete.
<b>Chinese pistache</b> <i>Pistache chinensis</i>	Outstanding heat, drought and soil tolerance. Genetic resistance to insect and disease problems. Spectacular fall color.	Ugly and gangly when first planted, however appearance improves with age. Training for growth structure suggested. Does not tolerate extremely moist sites. One of the last trees in the season to leaf out.
<b>Drake elm*</b> <i>Ulmus parvifolia 'Drake'</i>	Fast growing shade tree. Unique bark and trunk features. Will grow in full sun in a wide range of soil conditions. Shows some resistance to elm leaf beetle.	Will require ample amount to training, has tendency to develop heavy canopy and occasional girdling root, prone to wind throw early. Decent street and sidewalk tree. Do not confuse with Siberian elm.
<b>Durand Oak*</b> <i>Quercus durandii</i>	Slow to moderately fast growing tree. Performs well in a variety of soils. Very few pests. Should be used more.	Somewhat rare, may be found at native plant nurseries. Not to be confused with Bigelow oak.
<b>Fan-Tex green ash*</b> <i>Fraxinus velutina 'Fan-Tex'</i>	Seedless. Leafs out early in season. Thrives in hot dry climates and alkaline soils. Turn golden yellow in fall.	Seedless therefore a good choice for daycares and playgrounds were the potential for poisoning and choking is an issue for children and toddlers.
<b>Honey mesquite*</b> <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Interesting asymmetrical spreading form. Prefers full sun and is drought tolerant. Foliage flowers and fruit are attractive. Native.	Needs to be pruned to develop strong branch and trunk structure. Tree contains thorns and drops fruit but tolerable.
<b>Lacebark Elm*</b> <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Considered a handsome and durable tree. Relatively free from various elm diseases. Distinctive bark.	Very desirable street and sidewalk tree. May require training at a young age.
<b>Lacey Oak</b> <i>Quercus glaucoides</i>	Beautiful small native oak. Highly tolerant to heat, drought alkaline soil and pests.	Great for low water landscapes. All the benefits of an oak in a smaller package.

<p><b>Marshall seedless ash*</b> <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Marshall'</i></p>	<p>Fast growing, can be grown on wet or dry sites. Grows well in urban areas with pollution and poor soils.</p>	<p>Fair street or park tree, does well in tree wells. Avoid females which may inadvertently produce seed.</p>
<p><b>Monterey oak*</b> <i>Quercus polymorpha</i></p>	<p>Drought tolerant suitable for xeriscaping. Long lived, fast growing remains evergreen for most of the year.</p>	<p>A university favorite, rapidly becoming a popular landscape tree which can affect availability in larger sizes. A must in any landscape plan.</p>
<p><b>River birch - dura heat</b> <i>Betula nigra var. duraheat</i></p>	<p>Good cultivar of popular river birch with denser canopy and leaf spot resistance.</p>	<p>Training to two or three stems recommended. Will struggle in high alkaline soils.</p>
<p><b>Texas ash</b> <i>Fraxinus texensis</i></p>	<p>Smaller, more drought tolerant relative of White ash. Dramatic colors in the fall. Prefers alkaline soil. Well suited for urban situations.</p>	<p>May be difficult to locate other than native landscape supplier, grown in small quantities. Suitable urban tree.</p>
<p><b>Texas red oak*</b> <i>Quercus buckleyi</i></p>	<p>Foliage turns a vivid red and orange in autumn. More drought tolerant than other oak counterparts.</p>	<p>Decent street and park tree. Will require some training to develop strong central leader and grow upright. Susceptible to oak wilt disease.</p>
<p><b>Southern magnolia</b> <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i></p>	<p>Evergreen with pyramidal form. Fragrant and showing in spring. Moderate drought tolerance.</p>	<p>Grass typically does not grow under canopy. Drops litter throughout the year. Needs plenty of room. 'Little gem' is compact cultivar which is preferred.</p>
<p><b>Highrise Live oak*</b> <i>Quercus virginiana 'QVTIA'</i></p>	<p>Upright narrow pyramidal growth pattern, with benefits of traditional Live oak. 20' spacing allowable.</p>	<p>Ideal for parking lots, tree lined streets, and an ideal selection for tree to be placed in a restricted canopy area. Some difficulty with availability.</p>

**SMALL SIZE (1-20 FEET TALL ) REQUIRES 15 FOOT SPACING**

	Advantages	Use and Limitations
<p><b>American smoke tree</b> <i>Cotinus obovatus</i></p>	Striking color in fall, fuzzy panicles give interesting smoky appearance.	Fall color alone makes a worthy choice. Capable of withstanding urban conditions. Adaptable to various soil conditions.
<p><b>Anacacho orchid tree*</b> <i>Bauhinia congesta</i></p>	Great small spring flowering tree. It has no disease or insect problems and is drought tolerant once established. Holds leaves over mild winters. Unique foliage and showy flowers.	Does best in full sun to bright shade Increasingly available in local nurseries although previously rare.
<p><b>Crape myrtle*</b> <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i></p>	Many different varieties fairly trouble free once established. A staple in many landscapes.	Natchez a notable selection Adaptable to various soil types. Susceptible to powdery mildew.
<p><b>Desert willow</b> <i>Chilopsis linearis</i></p>	Delicate small tree with beautiful flowers that attract hummingbirds. Common landscape choice.	Drought tolerant and should not be over watered, ideal for raised beds. Can be carefully pruned to desired form. Easy to grow.
<p><b>Eve's necklace</b> <i>Sophora affinis</i></p>	Grows clusters of pink blooms that in fall grow into small strings of seed. Grows moderately fast.	Requires pruning to develop strong structure and ensure vehicle and pedestrian clearance. Grows in part or full sun. Fruit is not a problem.
<p><b>Flameleaf sumac</b> <i>Rhus lanceolata</i></p>	Gets its name from the outstanding fall orange and red hues of the tree.	Extremely heat and drought tolerant. Hardy with little maintenance Must be trained to avoid shrub like appearance, although not aggressive like other sumacs.
<p><b>Flowering senna</b> <i>Senna corymbosa</i></p>	Showy yellow flowers from mid summer to fall. Hardy perennial tree. Can be grown to hedge or screen.	Prefers xeric conditions. Heat and drought tolerant. Easy to grow. Produces long seed pod.
<p><b>Goldenball leadtree*</b> <i>Leucaena retusa</i></p>	Very drought tolerant and can withstand reflective heat. Adapts to various soils but prefers well drained. Blooms April to October and very prominent after a heavy rain.	Grows in full sun and drought tolerant. Outstanding ornamental features. Susceptible to breakage in high wind or ice storms. Will require some training.
<p><b>Goldenrain Tree</b> <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i></p>	Excellent small lawn tree with yellow flowers and gold fall color. Absolutely stunning in fall.	Considered invasive in some parts of the country. Should be placed where consistent landscape care is provided. Seed pods can be annoying.
<p><b>Mexican plum*</b> <i>Prunus Mexicana</i></p>	Beautiful single trunked spring flowering tree. Relatively drought tolerant.	Dark edible red fruit in fall. May attract wildlife, avoid placement near sidewalks . Prefers afternoon shade.

<p><b>Mexican redbud*</b> <i>Cercis canadensis var. Mexicana</i></p>	<p>Smaller in stature and more drought tolerant than it Texas rebud. It grows a multi-trunked tree and thrives on hard limestone soils. Purple-pink flowers in spring.</p>	<p>Susceptible to breakage due to weak wood or poor crotch attachment. Grows branches low on trunk but can be trained. Fruit does not create litter problem. Can be trained as single or multi-trunk.</p>
<p><b>Poinciana</b> <i>Delonix regia</i></p>	<p>Vivid red orange yellow flowers. Evergreen. Voted among the five beautiful flowering trees in the world.</p>	<p>Virtually evergreen but shed leaves during drought. Dense shade and root system prevents other plants from growing under it.</p>
<p><b>Loquat</b> <i>Eriobotra japonica</i></p>	<p>Evergreen, Grows well in a variety of soils. Proven performer in area. Generates a much desired fruit.</p>	<p>Easy to grow, contrasts well with other plants. Edible fruit used a variety of foods. Prefer full sun. Should not be planted near sidewalks.</p>
<p><b>Possumhaw Holly</b> <i>Ilex decidua</i></p>	<p>Spectacular red orange and yellow fruit. Found in single or multiple trunk</p>	<p>Avoid males. . Demand for this ideal landscape tree is increasing nursery availability.</p>
<p><b>Purple leaf plum*</b> <i>Prunus cerasifera</i></p>	<p>Beautiful bloom of pink and white in early spring. Requires very little care. Does well in full sun.</p>	<p>Requires deep watering in heat of summer. Produces edible fruit which limits planting around sidewalk areas.</p>
<p><b>Roughleaf Dogwood</b> <i>Cornus drummondii</i></p>	<p>Adaptable from full sun to heavy shade. Showy flowers during summer months.</p>	<p>Ideal for erosion control and stabilizing banks. Sprouts profusely. Generates fruit which attracts many species of birds.</p>
<p><b>Shin Oak</b> <i>Quercus sinuata var.breviloba</i></p>	<p>Grows on hard limestone. Low water requirement.</p>	<p>Often multi-trunked. Difficult availability. Important soil stabilizer ideal when focusing on native plantings.</p>
<p><b>Texas Mountain Laurel*</b> <i>Sophora secundiflora</i></p>	<p>Year long beauty lustrous leaves. Generally disease and pest free. Can be planted in full sun or light shade.</p>	<p>Slow growing, seeds and flowers are poisonous. Readily available. An area staple.</p>
<p><b>Texas Persimmon*</b> <i>Diospyros texana</i></p>	<p>Flowers bloom form February to June. Popular ornamental.</p>	<p>Provides fruit for wildlife, avoid planting along sidewalks.</p>
<p><b>Texas Redbud*</b> <i>Cercis canadensis var. texensis</i></p>	<p>Waxy leaves retard transpiration. Very suited for central Texas.</p>	<p>Showy flowers in spring. Susceptible to root canker. Finite lifespan. An area staple.</p>

**SMALL SIZE (Shade Tolerant ) REQUIRES 10 FOOT SPACING**

	Advantages	Use and Limitations
<b>Mexican Buckeye*</b> <i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	Showy color in spring. Multi-trunks although can be trained as a single stem tree.	Spreading form does not warrant its use as a street or near sidewalk tree. Use as background or deciduous screen
<b>Mexican Plum*</b> <i>Prunus Mexicana</i>	Beautiful single trunked spring flowering tree. Relatively drought tolerant.	Dark edible red fruit in fall. May attract wildlife, avoid placement near sidewalks . Prefers afternoon shade.
<b>Red Buckeye</b> <i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Showy flowers in spring attractive to hummingbirds.	Seeds are poisonous Leaves can drop as early as September. Questionable availability.
<b>Rusty Viburnum*</b> <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Adapts well to a wide variety of soils. Pleasant white flowers in the spring, In fall a brilliant display of scarlet red to purple foliage. Drought tolerant.	Can be used in virtually any urban situation. Attractive to bees butterflies or birds. Good choice for formal landscapes.
<b>Texas Buckeye</b> <i>Aesculus glabra var. arguta</i>	Showy flowers in spring. Thrives in partial sun and hard limestone.	Many parts of tree including seeds are poisonous. Prematurly drops leaves in droughty situations due to leaf scorch and fungal diseases.
<b>Yaupon Holly *</b> <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Most versatile evergreen holly for general use in Texas. Grown successfully in urban areas where pollution and poor soils are an issue.	Ideal for training. Available in male or female depending on fruit desire. Good for parking lots, buffer areas or medians.

Compiled: August 2008, Larry Maginnis- Urban Forester- University of Texas at Austin