

# University of Texas at Austin – Facilities Services

## Desirable Tree Species List

\* denotes preferred

<b>LARGE SIZE (40+ FEET TALL) REQUIRES MINIMUM 30 FOOT SPACING</b>
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	Advantages	Use and Limitations
<b>American Elm</b> <i>Ulmus americana</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 healthy population of them in Texas. Have seen significant leaf damage by Elm Calligrapha beetles on several campus trees.
<b>Baldcypress</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 on drier sites. Cones and seeds contain staining compounds. 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 acorns are very decorative but 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 troubled by disease or pests.
<b>Monterrey Oak*</b> <i>Quercus polymorpha</i>	Drought tolerant, suitable for xeriscaping. Long-lived, fast growing, remains evergreen for most of the year.	Also known as Mexican white oak. A university favorite, rapidly becoming a popular landscape tree which can affect availability in larger sizes. A must in any landscape plan...but be careful of overplanting.
<b>Montezuma Cypress*</b> <i>Taxodium mucronatum</i>	Does not produce cypress knees. Drought tolerant and fast growing.	Very similar appearance to but grows twice as fast as Baldcypress 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, best to buy from nurseries that use local seed sources. Susceptible to oak wilt.

<p><b>Southern Live Oak*</b> <i>Quercus virginiana</i></p>	<p>Majestic and long lived, a very tough tree. Adaptable to wide pH range 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. Highrise ('QVTIA') cultivar is an ideal selection for placement in restricted canopy areas; upright, narrow pyramidal growth pattern with benefits of traditional live oak; some difficulty in availability.</p>
<p><b>Mexican Sycamore</b> <i>Platanus mexicana</i></p>	<p>More drought, insect and disease tolerant than American counterpart. Attractive leaves, very fast grower.</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 (inhibits growth of nearby plants.) Avoid near sidewalks and vehicles as seeds contain staining compounds.</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.	Needs good drainage. 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>Pistacia 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 strong structure suggested. Does not tolerate extremely moist sites. One of the last trees in the season to leaf out.
<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.	Hard to find in the nursery trade. Not to be confused with Bigelow oak.
<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. 'Drake' is a good cultivar.
<b>Lacey Oak</b> <i>Quercus laceyi</i>	Beautiful small native oak. Highly tolerant to heat, drought alkaline soil and pests.	Also known as Blue oak. Great for low water landscapes. All the benefits of an oak in a smaller package.
<b>Texas Ash</b> <i>Fraxinus texensis</i>	Smaller, more drought tolerant relative of white ash. Dramatic colors in the fall. Prefers alkaline soil. Well suited for urban situations.	May be difficult to locate in nursery, grown in small quantities.
<b>Texas Red Oak*</b> <i>Quercus buckleyi, Quercus texana</i>	Foliage turns a vivid red and orange in autumn. More drought tolerant than other oak counterparts. Does well in rocky, alkaline soils.	Decent street and park tree. Will require some training to develop strong central leader and grow upright. Susceptible to oak wilt disease.

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

	Advantages	Use and Limitations
<b>American Smoke Tree</b> <i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	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.
<b>Anacacho Orchid Tree*</b> <i>Bauhinia lunarioides,</i> <i>Bauhinia congesta</i>	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. Needs well-drained soil. Can be a bit top-heavy when planted from container, may require solid staking until roots establish. Increasingly available in local nurseries although previously rare.
<b>Crape Myrtle</b> <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Many different varieties, fairly trouble free once established. A staple in many landscapes.	Adaptable to various soil types. Susceptible to powdery mildew.
<b>Desert Willow*</b> <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	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.
<b>Eve's Necklace*</b> <i>Sophora affinis</i>	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.
<b>Flameleaf Sumac*</b> <i>Rhus lanceolata</i>	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.
<b>Flowering Senna</b> <i>Senna corymbosa</i>	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.
<b>Goldenball Leadtree*</b> <i>Leucaena retusa</i>	Very drought tolerant and can withstand reflective heat. Adapts to various soils but prefers good drainage. 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.
<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>Loquat</b> <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Evergreen, Grows well in a variety of soils. Proven performer in area. Generates a much desired fruit.	Easy to grow, contrasts well with other plants. Edible fruit used a variety of foods. Prefer full sun. Should not be planted near sidewalks.
<b>Possumhaw Holly</b> <i>Ilex decidua</i>	Spectacular red orange and yellow fruit. Found in single or multiple trunk	Avoid males, fruits only produced by female trees. Demand for this ideal landscape tree is increasing nursery availability.

<p><b>Roughleaf Dogwood*</b> <i>Cornus drumondii</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, forms thickets on shallow soils. Important soil stabilizer, ideal when focusing on native plantings. Difficult to find in nursery.</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 from February to June. Popular ornamental.</p>	<p>Provides edible fruit highly valued by wildlife. Avoid planting along sidewalks as fruits are highly staining.</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. Mexican redbud is another variety that is smaller in stature and more drought tolerant than Texas redbud; grows multi-trunked and thrives on hard limestone soils; purple-pink flowers in spring.</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 and fall. Naturally grow as multiple trunks though it can be trained as a single stem tree	Spreading form does not encourage its use as a street or near sidewalks. Use as background or deciduous screen
<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 Blackhaw*</b> <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	A native viburnum that 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. Prematurely 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. Both males and females available in nursery depending on if fruit is desired. Good for parking lots, buffer areas or medians.

Species List Compiled: August 2008, Larry Maginnis- Urban Forester- University of Texas at Austin  
 (Revised, 2013, Jim Carse & Jennifer Hrobar)