



ALL THINGS TREES

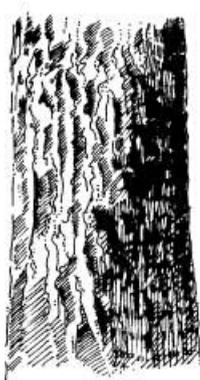
Zaragoza's Diversity
Grove

Tree Information Pack and Grove Map

<http://www.zarozaparkneighborhoodassn.org/zaragozas-new-grove-activities.html>

ID-THE-TREE

There are several ways to identify a Tree



SHAPE AND TYPE OF LEAF



Shape and type of leaves immediately tell you if the tree is “coniferous” or “broadleaf.” Coniferous are pine needle type leaves and broadleaf are all others.

Broadleaf trees are further identified by leaf type, arrangement, shape, blade edges, vein patterning, leaf's petiole (stalk), if there is a Stipules are 2 small flaps that grow at the base of the petiole in some trees

FRUIT, BERRIES, NUTS OR FLOWERS



look around the branches for any fruits, flowers or other features that may help separate the tree from other types.

COLOR AND SHAPE BARK



Both Color and Shape of the Tree's Bark are helpful for identification. Determine if it is smooth or ridged, grooved or furrowed.

TREE ANATOMY

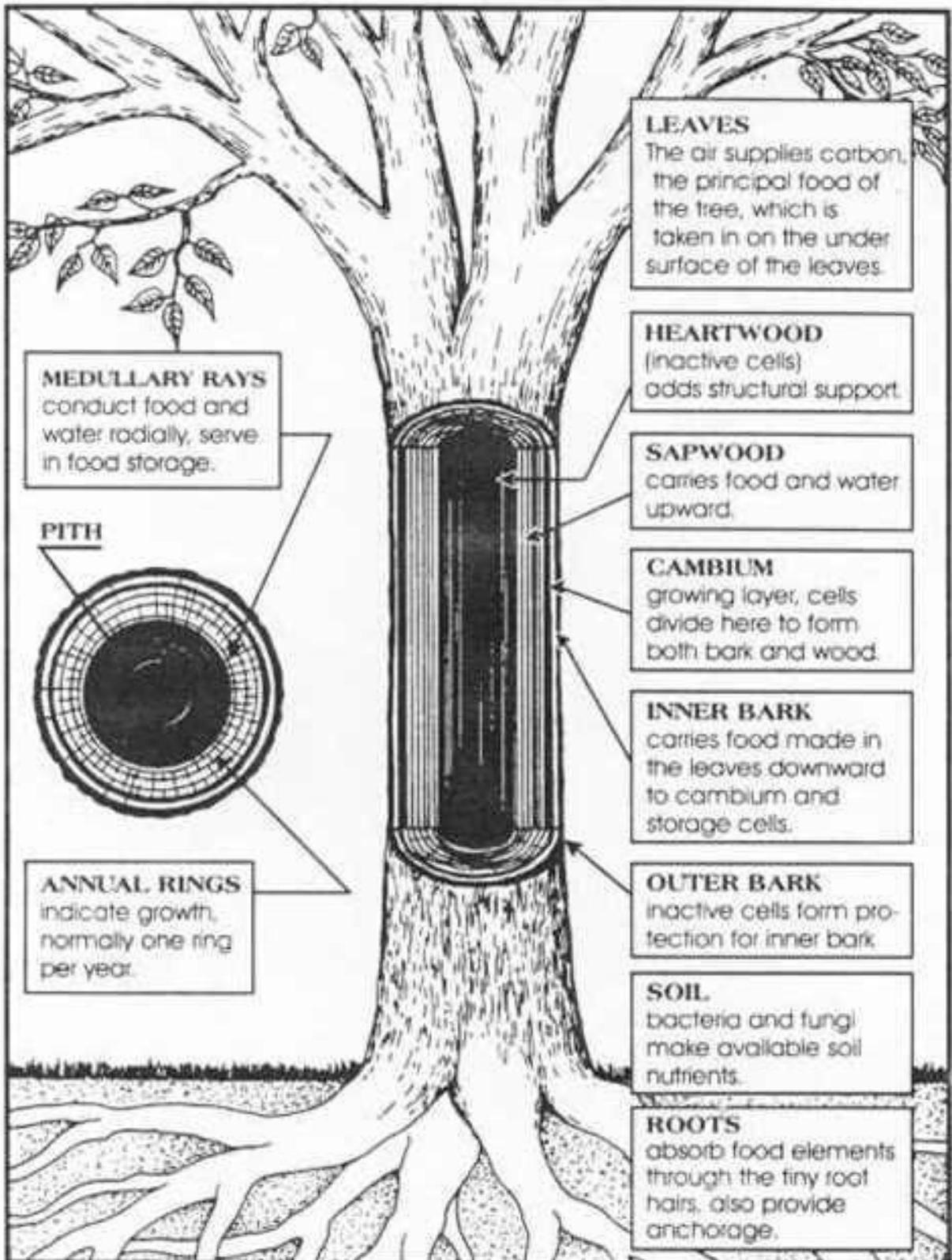


DIAGRAM SHOWING FUNCTIONS OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF A TREE.

Courtesy of the *New Tree Experts Manual* by Richard R. Penska

Baldcypress

Taxodium distichum

Secondary Names:

Bald Cypress

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

One of the few deciduous conifers of North America, baldcypress is a large tree to over 100 feet tall and a straight trunk to 8 feet in diameter, with numerous ascending branches. Young trees display a narrow, conical outline, but old trees have a swollen, fluted base, a slowly tapering trunk, and a broad, open, flat top. In swamps they develop distinctive woody growths from the root system called "knees."

Range/Site Description:

In East Texas, west to the Nueces River and Central Texas, growing on riverbanks, bottomlands, and in swamps which are flooded for prolonged periods. Planted widely as a landscape tree.

Leaf:

The slender, light green leaves are flattened, about 0.5" to 0.75" long, very narrow, and arranged in feather-like fashion along two sides of small branchlets 2" to 4" long, which are deciduous in the autumn with the leaves still attached. Flowering branchlets sometimes have awl-like leaves. Fall color is a striking copper or reddish-brown.

Flower:

Male conelets or "flowers" arranged along a thread-like catkin 3" to 4" long, appearing in the spring; female conelets small and inconspicuous.

Fruit:

A rounded cone about 1" in diameter, wrinkled into thick rough scales, greenish or with a waxy coating.

Bark:

Silvery to cinnamon-red, with papery scales on branches but developing larger flat-topped ridges and numerous longitudinal fissures with age.

Wood:

Light, soft, easily worked, with a light-colored sapwood and dark brown heartwood. It is particularly durable when exposed to soil and water, so cypress is in demand for exterior trim, boat and ship building, shingles, posts, poles, etc. Also in demand as a landscape tree.

Similar Species:

Montezuma baldcypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) has longer male flower catkins in the spring.

Interesting Facts:

Central Texas populations of this species do not produce the woody "knees," the function of which is not known. They may serve to help balance the tree on soft, muddy soils.

Bigtooth Maple

Acer grandidentatum

Secondary Names:

Canyon Maple, Uvalde Bigtooth Maple

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



Tree Description:

A small tree to 50 feet with a dense, oval crown and a trunk up to 10" to 12" in diameter. Usually found near streams or seeps.

Range/Site Description:

Shaded canyons in the Texas Hill Country, the Edwards Plateau, and the mountains of the Trans-Pecos.

Leaf:

Simple, opposite leaves have 3 to 5 lobes and blades measuring 2" to 5" long and wide. Petioles 1" to 2" long. Main sinuses between lobes are distinctly rounded.

Flower:

Yellowish-green, appearing in the axils between leaf and stem.

Fruit:

A double samara, or maple "key," appearing in early fall, each half about 1" long.

Bark:

Thin, gray colored, and tight on young trees; breaking into broad plates on older trees.

Wood:

Sap can be collected to make a coarse sugar.

Similar Species:

Some botanists describe a 'Uvalde' variety of the species with three lobes and margins without teeth.

Interesting Facts:

Brilliant fall color can best be seen at Lost Maples State Park near Vanderpool, or in McKittrick Canyon of Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Trees of Texas



Black Locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

Secondary Names:

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native:

Firewise:



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Tree Description:

A medium-sized tree of farms and old homesteads, to 50 feet tall and a trunk to 2 feet in diameter.

Range/Site Description:

Native to the northeast and midwest U.S., this species is widely planted in East Texas and has escaped from cultivation in fencerows and unmaintained fields. Prefers deep, well-drained, moist soil for good growth, but tolerates dry sites.

Leaf:

Alternate, once-compound, 10" to 14" long, with 11 to 19 leaflets, each one oval and 1" to 2" long. Leaves are slightly blue-green on top and pale beneath; the twigs are armed with a pair of sharp, strong spines 0.25" to 0.5" long at the base of each leaf.

Flower:

Drooping clusters of pea-like flowers, 3" to 6" long, white or cream-colored, fragrant, appearing after the leaves in spring.

Fruit:

A flattened, papery pod, 3" to 5" long, containing 4 to 8 small hard seeds which ripen late in the fall; pod splits open during the winter, but seeds often remain attached to each half of the pod.

Bark:

Thick, light brown, with deep furrows and interlaced ridges.

Wood:

Wood is yellow, heavy, very hard, strong, and durable in contact with the soil. Its uses include fence posts, railroad ties, tree nails, and insulator pins for electric lines.

Similar Species:

Waterlocust (*Gleditsia aquatica*) occurs in bottomlands of East Texas and has single-seeded pods. New Mexico locust (*Robinia neomexicana*) is found in the Guadalupe Mountains of West Texas.

Interesting Facts:

Used as plantings in strip mine reclamation projects because the seedlings tolerate the highly acidic soils and its roots possess nitrogen-fixing nodules that improve the soil.

Trees at Texas



Blackjack Oak

Quercus marilandica

Secondary Names:

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native:

Firewise:



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Tree Description:

A medium to large tree that can reach a height of 60 feet and a diameter of 16" to 24", but is usually much smaller. Its stiff, drooping branches form an irregular, dense crown that often contains many persistent dead twigs or branches.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in East and Central Texas, as far west as Callahan county, on dry or poorly drained, gravelly clays, or sandy upland soils where few other forest trees thrive.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 4" to 10" long and 3" to 5" wide, strongly obovate, usually with three main bristle-tipped lobes on the upper half of the leaf, the bottom half narrowing abruptly to the petiole. Leaves are leathery, dark green and glossy on top, lighter and tawny-pubescent below.

Flower:

Separate male and female flowers appear in spring on the same tree. Male flowers borne on a yellowish catkin 2" to 4" long; the less conspicuous female flowers are reddish in color.

Fruit:

An acorn, taking two years to mature, about 0.75" long, yellow-brown and often striped, enclosed for one-half to two-thirds its length in a thick, light-brown cup.

Bark:

Black or dark gray, very rough and breaking into thick, squarish blocks on older trunks.

Wood:

Heavy, hard and strong. It is used for firewood, posts, and is made into charcoal.

Similar Species:

Water oak (*Quercus nigra*) has similar three-lobed leaves that are less than 4" long.

Interesting Facts:

Several forms of the species with smaller leaves occur in Central Texas on limestone soils and bluffs.

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Trees of Texas



Black Willow *Salix nigra*

Secondary Names:

Leaf Type: Deciduous
Texas Native:
Firewise:



Tree Description:

A large tree usually growing to 50 feet tall, but can reach 100 feet, with one or more trunks to 3 feet in diameter and an upright branching habit. In winter the reddish-brown or golden twigs are conspicuous.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs throughout Texas, along streams, in wet areas, and on riverbanks, frequently in groups or thickets.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 3" to 6" long and 0.5" to 0.75" wide, linear-lanceolate in shape, leaf margin finely-toothed; leaves are bright green on both sides, turning pale yellow in the fall.

Flower:

Male and female flowers are borne on separate trees in the spring as catkins, 1" to 3" long.

Fruit:

A long, cylindrical string of capsules, 3" to 4" long, each containing numerous small seeds with long silky hairs which enable them to be blown long distances.

Bark:

Light brown, gray, or black, developing broad plates that separate from the trunk and give it a somewhat shaggy appearance.

Wood:

Wood is soft, light, and not strong. A high grade of charcoal, used in the manufacture of gunpowder, is obtained from willow wood, and it is also used in manufacture of artificial limbs.

Similar Species:

Weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) has long branchlets that droop to the ground and is often planted near wet areas.

Interesting Facts:

Willow bark was used by native peoples and early settlers as a headache remedy because it contains salicylic acid, the active ingredient of aspirin.

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Desert-Willow

Chilopsis linearis

Secondary Names:

Desert Willow

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A small tree to 25 feet tall and a trunk to 12" in diameter, with a curving, irregular branching habit and an open, airy crown of foliage.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in West Texas, on dry, gravelly, porous soils and dry stream channels. Also planted as a landscape specimen, but does poorly if overwatered.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate (or sometimes opposite), linear, 4" to 12" long and just 0.5" wide, light green, pointed at the tip, with a smooth leaf margin.

Flower:

Showy, tubular flowers 1" to 1.5" long, usually lavender or white, blooming at the end of the twigs in summer or after a rainstorm, opening successively toward the end of the flower stalk.

Fruit:

A long "pod" or capsule, 7" to 12" long, woody, very slender, and containing many small seeds. Fruit pods are similar to those of catalpa.

Bark:

Smooth, brown on branches and young trunks, turning darker with age and developing scales and deeper fissures on old trunks.

Wood:

Soft, weak, and close-grained; brown, streaked with yellow. The wood is used for fenceposts, fuel, and baskets; the flowers produce an excellent honey.

Similar Species:

Black willow (*Salix nigra*) has shorter leaves with finely-toothed margins.

Interesting Facts:

Dried flowers are sold in local Mexican markets as remedy for coughs and other respiratory ailments.

Cedar Elm

Ulmus crassifolia

Secondary Names:

Texas Elm

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A large tree to 75 feet tall with a tall straight trunk 2 to 3 feet in diameter and stiff branches that form a narrow, oblong crown.

Range/Site Description:

The most common elm tree in Texas, distributed widely in East, South, and Central Texas. Most often found near streams, in solid stands on flatwoods near rivers, or on dry limestone hills. Also planted widely as a landscape tree.

Leaf:

Alternate, simple, 1" to 2.5" long and 0.75" to 1" wide, oval to elliptical in shape, finely-toothed or sometimes double-toothed along the margin, and blunt at the tip. The upper surface is dark green, shiny, and rough, while the lower surface and petiole are pubescent. Twigs sometimes have thin, corky "wings" and the leaves can turn gold to orange-red in the fall.

Flower:

Appear in late summer or autumn as hairy, short-stalked clusters in the leaf axils.

Fruit:

An oval "samara," 0.25" to 0.5" long, the seed centered in the middle of the wing, deeply notched at the tip and hairy all over, especially along the margin. Seeds are borne in the fall, which distinguishes this species from the other native elms.

Bark:

Light brown to gray, with flattened ridges that break into thin, loose, flaky scales.

Wood:

Reddish-brown, brittle, with a thick layer of light-colored sapwood. The wood is sometimes used to manufacture wheel hubs, furniture, and fencing. Commonly sold in the nursery trade as a landscape tree.

Similar Species:

Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*) has larger leaves and seeds that mature in spring; varieties of Chinese elm (*U. parvifolia*) have similar leaves, but the bark is distinctly orange and flaky.

Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

Secondary Names:

Chinquapin Oak

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A medium or large tree reaching a height of 70 feet and a trunk to 3 feet in diameter, with a rounded crown of glossy, green foliage. It is also planted widely as a shade tree suitable for limestone soils.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs from northeast Texas to Central Texas and south to the Guadalupe River, and also in the mountains of West Texas, growing on mostly limestone soils, especially at the base of bluffs and along stream courses.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, oval to elliptical or oblong in shape, 4" to 6" long and 1.5" to 2" wide, leaf edge rather sharply toothed but without bristle-tips, teeth slightly recurved.

Flower:

Separate male and female flowers appear in spring on the same tree. Male flowers borne on a yellowish catkin 3" to 4" long; the female flowers are less conspicuous and reddish.

Fruit:

An acorn, requiring just one season to mature, 0.5" to 1.25" long, light to dark brown when ripe, enclosed by one-half its length by the bowl-shaped cup. Acorn is edible if roasted.

Bark:

Light gray, breaking into short, narrow flakes on the main trunk and limbs, deeply furrowed on older trunks.

Wood:

Heavy, hard, strong, durable, and taking an excellent polish; used for barrels, fencing, crossties, fuel, and occasionally for furniture.

Similar Species:

Swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*) occurs in southeast Texas and has larger leaves with rounded teeth.

Interesting Facts:

Chinkapin oak is named because of the resemblance of the leaves to the Allegheny chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*), a relative of American chestnut (*C. dentata*).

Trees of Texas



Chisos Red Oak *Quercus gravesii*

Secondary Names:
Graves Oak

Leaf Type: Deciduous
Texas Native:
Firewise:



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Tree Description:

A stout, medium-sized tree to 40 feet tall and one or more trunks to 20" in diameter, with a rounded crown of glossy foliage.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in the Glass, Davis, and Chisos mountains of West Texas, generally on north-facing slopes above 5,000 feet in elevation. Also occurs at lower elevations in Val Verde county, in shaded canyons near the mouth of the Pecos River.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 3" to 5" long and 2" to 3.5" wide, with 3 to 7 bristle-tipped lobes, glossy above and paler below. Leaves turn reliably gold-brown in late autumn.

Flower:

Separate male and female flowers on the same tree. Male flowers borne on a catkin about 4" long; inconspicuous female flowers borne on a peduncle up to 0.5" long.

Fruit:

An acorn, requiring two years to mature, about 0.5" long and almost as wide, rounded at tip, enclosed one-third to one-half by the cup.

Bark:

Dark gray to black, rough, with some flat ridges and fissures on older trunks.

Wood:

Used for firewood and sometimes available in West Texas in the nursery trade.

Similar Species:

Considered the westernmost form of the Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) complex that included Texas red oak (*Q. buckleyi*). More prevalent in the Chisos mountains than Chisos oak (*Q. graciliformis*), which has narrower leaves.

Interesting Facts:

Edible acorns were ground into flour by native peoples.

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Desert-Willow

Chilopsis linearis

Secondary Names:

Desert Willow

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A small tree to 25 feet tall and a trunk to 12" in diameter, with a curving, irregular branching habit and an open, airy crown of foliage.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in West Texas, on dry, gravelly, porous soils and dry stream channels. Also planted as a landscape specimen, but does poorly if overwatered.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate (or sometimes opposite), linear, 4" to 12" long and just 0.5" wide, light green, pointed at the tip, with a smooth leaf margin.

Flower:

Showy, tubular flowers 1" to 1.5" long, usually lavender or white, blooming at the end of the twigs in summer or after a rainstorm, opening successively toward the end of the flower stalk.

Fruit:

A long "pod" or capsule, 7" to 12" long, woody, very slender, and containing many small seeds. Fruit pods are similar to those of catalpa.

Bark:

Smooth, brown on branches and young trunks, turning darker with age and developing scales and deeper fissures on old trunks.

Wood:

Soft, weak, and close-grained; brown, streaked with yellow. The wood is used for fenceposts, fuel, and baskets; the flowers produce an excellent honey.

Similar Species:

Black willow (*Salix nigra*) has shorter leaves with finely-toothed margins.

Interesting Facts:

Dried flowers are sold in local Mexican markets as remedy for coughs and other respiratory ailments.

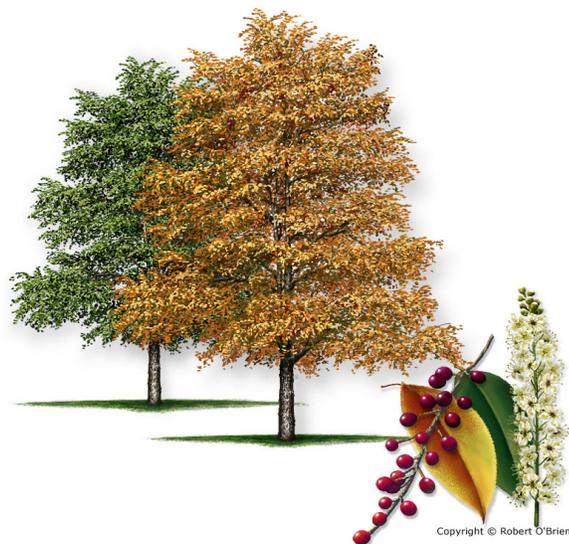
Black Cherry

Prunus serotina var. *serotina*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



Tree Description:

A large tree to 80 feet tall and a trunk 1 to 3 feet in diameter. Forest-grown trees have long clear trunks with little taper and an oval crown; open-grown trees have short trunks with many branches and an irregular, spreading crown.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in East Texas on a variety of sites, but commonly found in fertile woods or along fencerows, burned areas, or disturbed sites where it is a pioneer species.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 2" to 6" long and 1" to 1.5" wide, oval or elliptical in shape, with very fine teeth along the margin; glossy and dark green above, pale green beneath, with tufts of brown hairs along the midrib.

Flower:

Drooping, cylindrical clusters of small, white flowers appear with the new leaves in spring.

Fruit:

A purplish-black, berry-like drupe, up to 0.5" in diameter, borne in long, hanging clusters. The fruit ripens in late summer and is edible, though slightly bitter.

Bark:

On branches and young trunks the bark is smooth, bright reddish-brown, and marked by conspicuous, narrow, horizontal lines called "lenticels;" older trunks develop small, flat, scaly plates; twigs have a bitter almond taste.

Wood:

Red-brown heartwood with yellowish sapwood, moderately heavy, hard, strong, fine-grained, and does not warp or split in seasoning; used for fine furniture, cabinets, veneer, interior trim, and printers blocks.

Similar Species:

Escarpment black cherry (*Prunus serotina* var. *eximia*) occurs in the Hill Country and the Edwards Plateau and tolerates alkaline soils; southwestern black cherry (*P. serotina* var. *rufula*) and southwestern chokecherry (*P. serotina* var. *virens*) occur in West Texas.

Interesting Facts:

With the exception of walnut, black cherry lumber has a greater value per board-foot than any other hardwood in the eastern United States.

Eve's Necklace

Sophora affinis

Secondary Names:

Texas Sophora, Eve's-Necklacepod

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A small tree to 20 feet tall and a trunk to 12" in diameter, occasionally larger, with an open, airy crown of light green foliage. Used increasingly as a landscape tree for its pink flowers and black, bead-like fruits.

Range/Site Description:

Stream corridors, moist areas, fencerows, and rights-of-way in Central Texas, mostly on limestone soils.

Leaf:

Branches, twigs, and leaves without thorns or prickles; leaves are once-compound, alternate, 6" to 9" long, with 13 to 19 oval or elliptical leaflets, each 0.75" to 1.5" long and 0.5" wide, with a smooth margin.

Flower:

Borne in drooping clusters 3" to 6" long of white to pink, pea-like flowers, each about 0.5" long.

Fruit:

A slender string of shiny, black beads, from 2" to 4" long, on a stalk 2" long, with narrow constrictions between the seeds, giving the tree its common name, Eve's-necklace.

Bark:

Twigs are green to orange-brown and the bark develops into thin, gray-brown scales and furrows on older trunks.

Wood:

Very hard, light red in color, with a thick, bright yellow sapwood; no commercial importance. Sold in the nursery trade as a landscape tree.

Similar Species:

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) has more rounded, oval leaflets and sharp thorns at the base of each leaf.

Facts:

In dense shade, this tree acts more like a climbing vine and can be difficult to identify.

Famous Facts

- Which Tree is the tombstone of one of the most feared outlaws in Texas?
- Which tree had the first recruitment of citizen soldiers in 1842?
- Which tree stands at the geographical center of Texas?


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Hubbard Ginkgo

[Historical Period:](#) Frontier Texas (1865-1900)

[Historical Topic:](#) Odds & Ends

[Species:](#) Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)

[County:](#) Smith

[Public Access:](#) Yes

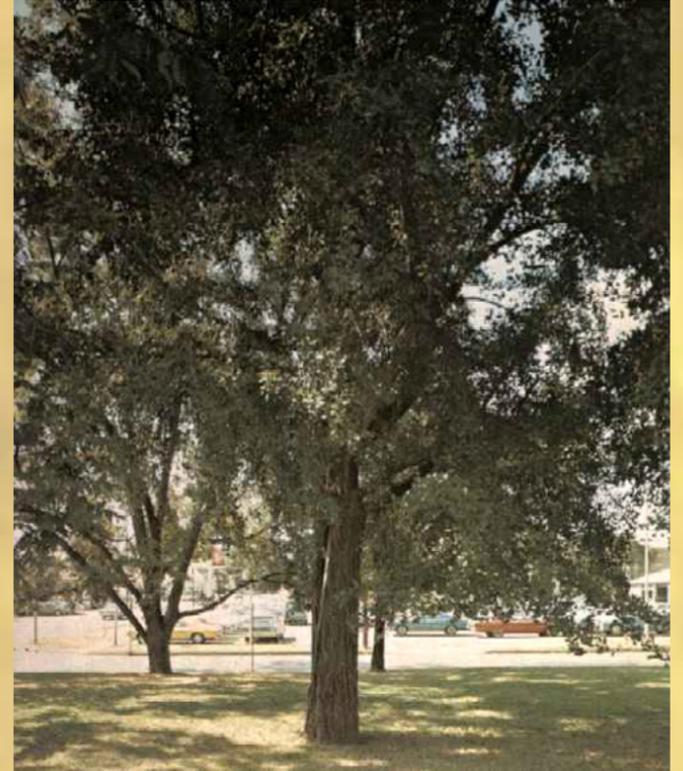
On the lawn of the city hall in Tyler stands this immense Ginkgo biloba, which was brought from Japan by Ambassador Richard Bennett Hubbard. It was planted in Tyler in 1889.

The Ginkgo is a living fossil—the only living member of the Ginkgoaceae family of plants, which otherwise became extinct in early geological times. The tree, which is considered sacred in Japan, was introduced from China by Buddhist priests and was planted around their temples.

The beautiful Hubbard Ginkgo is a male tree and produces no fruit. It is about 80 feet tall and, except for a large scar on one side, caused by a stroke of lightning years ago, appears to be in good health.

Hubbard brought two of these seedling trees to Texas in 1889. He planted one on the lawn of the governor's mansion in Austin and gave the other to an intimate friend, Colonel John H. Brown of Tyler, who planted it in the front yard of his home. The Brown property was later acquired by the city of Tyler as the location for its city hall.

This unusual tree with its fan-shaped leaves is located near the southeast corner of the City Hall lawn, in Tyler.

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Trees of Texas



Italian Stone Pine

Pinus pinea

Secondary Names:

Umbrella Pine

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Texas Native:

Firewise:



Tree Description:

A pine tree up to 50 feet tall with a trunk to 2 feet in diameter that develops without a central leader (decurent growth form) into an open, spreading shade tree and a smooth, rounded crown silhouette.

Range/Site Description:

Planted in urban landscapes in Central, South, and West Texas. Prefers good drainage, but tolerant of drought, salt, and slightly alkaline soils.

Leaf:

Dull, light green needles in bundles of 2, 5" to 8" long, spiraled around the twigs.

Flower:

Male conelets are yellow-orange, up to 0.75" long; female conelets brown, inconspicuous, up to 1" long.

Fruit:

The medium brown, glossy cones, 3" to 5" long and almost as wide when open, take three years to mature. The seeds or "pine nuts" at the base of each scale are edible.

Bark:

Gray-brown, rough texture, and fissured.

Wood:

Pine nuts - or pignolia - are a traditional ingredient in Mediterranean cuisine. Seedlings are often sold as "tabletop" Christmas trees.

Similar Species:

Afghan pine (*Pinus eldarica*) has shorter needles and a conical (or excurrent) growth form.

Interesting Facts:

Mature form gives the name "umbrella pine."

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Lacey Oak

Quercus laceyi

Secondary Names:

Blue Oak, Canyon Oak

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A medium-sized tree to 40 or more feet tall and a stout trunk to 2 feet in diameter, with a dense crown of distinctly bluish foliage that stands out from the junipers and live oaks with which it is associated.

Range/Site Description:

Limestone soils of the Edwards Plateau, especially in canyons or on protected slopes. Also in isolated areas of Terrell and Brewster counties.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate on the twigs, 2" to 5" long and up to 2" wide, leathery, variably lobed with the lobes irregular and often shallow; leaves blue-gray on top and paler below.

Flower:

Male and female flowers borne in spring on the same tree, the male flowers on catkins about 2.5" long, the female flowers inconspicuous, about 0.5" long.

Fruit:

An acorn, maturing in one year, in clusters of 1 to 3, about 0.75" long, ovoid, enclosed one-quarter to one-half its length by the saucer-shaped cup.

Bark:

Gray, thick, breaking into narrow plates and fissures on older trunks.

Wood:

Used locally for fuelwood and posts; increasingly available in the nursery trade for landscape plantings.

Similar Species:

White shin oak (*Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba*) is a small, twisted tree of limestone escarpments in Central Texas with scaly bark.

Live Oak

Quercus virginiana

Secondary Names:

Coast Live Oak

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A large, stately tree, commonly to 50 feet tall with a short, stout trunk of 4 feet or more in diameter, dividing into several large, twisting limbs that form a low, dense crown that can spread more than 100 feet, the limbs often touching the ground in open-grown settings.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs on well-drained soils in the southern coastal plain, from Virginia through the Atlantic and Gulf states and into Texas, west to the Balcones Escarpment and south to Hidalgo county. Widely planted as a landscape tree in Texas.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, evergreen, thick, and leathery; oval, oblong, or elliptical in shape, 2" to 4" long and 0.5" to 2" wide; smooth, glossy, and dark green above, pale and silvery white beneath. Leaves can sometimes be toothed, especially towards the tip.

Flower:

Borne in spring on the same tree, the male flowers on catkins up to 3" long, the female flowers on a peduncle 1" to 3" long in the leaf axils.

Fruit:

An acorn, requiring one year to mature, about 1" long and 0.5" in diameter, oblong, dark brown and shiny, set about one-half its length in a gray, downy cup that is borne on a long stem or peduncle.

Bark:

Dark brown, rough, and furrowed on trunk and large branches, developing very thick, interlacing ridges and deep furrows on older trees. Some specimens have thinner, paler, scaly bark.

Wood:

Very heavy, hard, strong and tough, light brown with nearly white, thin sapwood; formerly used in shipbuilding and for wagon wheel hubs. Now primarily sold as a landscape tree in the nursery trade.

Similar Species:

Texas live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*) occurs north and west of the Balcones Escarpment in Central Texas and tends to be smaller and multi-trunked. Mexican blue oak (*Q. oblongifolia*) is a rare evergreen oak that occurs in West Texas.

Interesting Facts:

Live oaks were once prized for their naturally curved limbs and trunk, used by shipbuilders in the 18th Century to fashion the ribs and planking of tall sailing ships, such as "Old Ironsides." Refitting that ship in the 1980's included specialty pieces cut from live oaks in Texas that had been killed by the oak wilt fungus.

Mexican Buckeye

Ungnadia speciosa

Secondary Names:

Mexican-Buckeye

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A many-trunked shrub or small tree up to 20 feet tall and trunks up to 10" in diameter, forming an irregular crown.

Range/Site Description:

Limestone soils in Central and West Texas, especially moist canyons, seeps, or rocky bluffs.

Leaf:

Once-compound, alternate, 9" to 12" long, with 5 to 9 leaflets, each 3" to 5" long and 1.5" to 2" wide, ovate or lanceolate, bluntly-toothed along the margin, dark green and glossy on top, paler below, turning yellow in fall.

Flower:

Just before the leaves in spring, a short cluster of pink flowers, each about 1" across.

Fruit:

An odd, woody capsule, about 2" across, shaped like a fig, three-lobed, light brown, enclosing one to three round, smooth seeds.

Bark:

Light brown or gray, smooth at first, but developing thin scales and shallow fissures on larger trunks.

Wood:

The flowers produce an excellent honey; also sold in native plant nurseries for its landscape value.

Similar Species:

Can be mistaken for a pale-flowered redbud (*Cercis* spp.) at a distance; leaves and branches of Hercules'-club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*) have sharp prickles; leaves of common elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis*) are opposite on the twigs.

Interesting Facts:

The hard, round seeds were fashioned by children in rural areas into makeshift marbles.

Mexican Buckeye

Ungnadia speciosa

Secondary Names:

Mexican-Buckeye

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A many-trunked shrub or small tree up to 20 feet tall and trunks up to 10" in diameter, forming an irregular crown.

Range/Site Description:

Limestone soils in Central and West Texas, especially moist canyons, seeps, or rocky bluffs.

Leaf:

Once-compound, alternate, 9" to 12" long, with 5 to 9 leaflets, each 3" to 5" long and 1.5" to 2" wide, ovate or lanceolate, bluntly-toothed along the margin, dark green and glossy on top, paler below, turning yellow in fall.

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Interesting Facts:

The hard, round seeds were fashioned by children in rural areas into makeshift marbles.

Mexican White Oak

Quercus polymorpha

Secondary Names:

Netleaf White Oak, Monterrey Oak

Leaf Type: Semi-evergreen

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A medium-sized oak to 40 feet tall and a trunk to 2 feet in diameter, with a broad, rounded crown.

Range/Site Description:

Naturally occurring only in one known U.S. population, near the Devil's River in Val Verde county, but more common in Mexico. Now planted widely as a landscape tree.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 2" to 5" long, highly variable, but often with several shallow lobes or teeth towards the tip. Leaves are thick, leathery, and semi-evergreen, with distinct raised veins on the yellowish underside. New leaves in spring are peach-colored and in colder climates the leaves are late-deciduous and turn yellow-brown.

Flower:

Male and female flowers borne in spring on the same tree, the male flowers on catkins up to 4" long, the female flowers less conspicuous.

Fruit:

An acorn, maturing in one year, up to 1" long and enclosed one-half by the acorn cup.

Bark:

Dark to light gray, developing scales and flaky plates, then shallow fissures on older trunks.

Wood:

Primarily used as a landscape tree in the nursery trade, and often sold as 'Monterrey oak.'

Similar Species:

Netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*) has similar venation on the undersides of leaves, but has obovate leaves and is restricted to high elevations in West Texas.

Interesting Facts:

Only recently discovered in the U.S. (1992) as a native tree species, but widely available in commercial nurseries.

Texas Mountain-Laurel

Sophora secundiflora

Secondary Names:

Mescalbean

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A shrub or small tree to 20 feet tall and one or more trunks to 8" in diameter, with a compact, oval crown of glossy, dark green foliage.

Range/Site Description:

Limestone soils in Central, South, and West Texas.

Leaf:

Once-compound, alternate, 4" to 6" long, with 5 to 9 (sometimes more) oblong leaflets, each 1" to 2.5" long and 1" wide, margin smooth, tip rounded or slightly indented; evergreen, leathery, glossy on top, and paler below.

Flower:

A dense cluster of purple, pea-like flowers appears with the new leaves in spring, with an aroma like grape-flavored Kool-Aid.

Fruit:

A hard, brown pod, 2" to 5" long, constricted between the seeds; containing 3 to 8 hard, red seeds, each 0.5" or so long.

Bark:

Dark brown to almost black, with thin scales developing into narrow, flat ridges with tight fissures in between.

Wood:

Sold in nurseries as a landscape specimen.

Similar Species:

American pistachio (*Pistacia mexicana*) has small leaflets that come to an abrupt point at the tip.

Interesting Facts:

The large seeds are highly poisonous to humans. Despite this fact (or perhaps because of it), the seeds were used by Native Americans for ceremonial purposes, often in conjunction with the alcoholic drink, mescal -- giving it the common name "mescalbean." The species is unrelated to the true mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*).

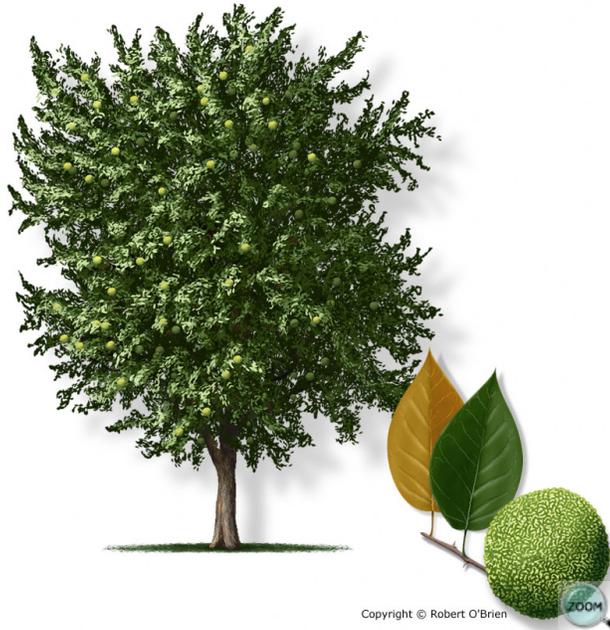
Trees of Texas



Osage-Orange *Maclura pomifera*

Secondary Names:
Bois-D'arc, Bodark, Hedge-Apple

Leaf Type: Deciduous
Texas Native:
Firewise:



Tree Description:

A medium-sized tree to 40 feet tall and a short trunk up to 3 feet in diameter, with many crooked, interweaving, thorny branches that form a dense, spreading crown.

Range/Site Description:

Native to East and Central Texas, it attains its largest size in the valley of the Red River in the northeast part of the state, often on clay soils. The species has been transplanted to many areas in Texas and elsewhere.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 3" to 5" long and 2" to 3" wide, ovate in shape and pointed at the tip, even at the base; leaf margin is smooth, and the top surface is glossy, dark green, lighter green underneath, and turning a clear yellow in the fall. The twigs are armed with stout, straight thorns and produce a sticky, milky sap when broken.

Flower:

Male and female flowers borne on separate trees, in late spring; the male flowers form a short, linear cluster and the female flowers form a small, rounded ball in the leaf axils.

Fruit:

A large, spherical, green fruit -- actually an aggregate of many small seeds -- ranging from 4" to 5" in diameter, resembling a green, wrinkled orange. Common names for the fruit are "horse apple" and "hedge apple."

Bark:

Thin, brown to orange, divided into strips or flakes on older trunks. The bark contains tannin and was once used for tanning leather.

Wood:

Wood is heavy, exceedingly hard, and very durable in contact with the soil. The heartwood is bright orange in color, turning brown upon exposure to the air. It is largely used for fenceposts.

Similar Species:

Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) has smaller leaves with faintly-toothed margins, and no thorns.

Interesting Facts:

The common name, "bois d'arc" is French for "bow-wood," a reference to the use by Native Americans for bows and war clubs. This species was also widely distributed and planted to make hedgerows and livestock pens prior to the invention of barbed wire.

Pecan

Carya illinoensis

Secondary Names:

Pecan Hickory

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A large tree to 120 feet tall and a trunk to 4 feet in diameter, with a broad, spreading crown when grown in the open. In wooded settings it grows tall and slender, with ascending branches and a tight, flat-topped crown.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs in rich, fertile bottomlands across most of the state, from the East Texas pineywoods throughout Central Texas and west to the Concho River valley. Planted widely as a landscape tree and in orchards for nut production.

Leaf:

Alternate, once-compound, 12" to 20" long, with 11 to 17 leaflets, each 4" to 8" long and up to 2" wide, lanceolate in shape, often falcate or inequilateral, finely-toothed and long-pointed; largest leaflets are typically towards the end of the leaf. Branches, twigs, and leaves lack thorns or prickles.

Flower:

Male and female flowers appear in early spring, separately on the same tree; male catkins are 3" to 6" long, female flowers in short spikes at the tips of the branches.

Fruit:

A large, cylindrical or oval nut, 1" to 2" long and up to 1" in diameter, enclosed in a thin husk which opens along grooved seams when the fruit ripens in the fall. The nuts vary considerably in size and thickness of shell and are rich in protein, oil, and minerals.

Bark:

Gray-brown and smooth at first, later breaking into thin scales that flake as the bark grows older, developing a rough texture of narrow, flat ridges and shallow fissures on older trunks.

Wood:

Heavy, hard, brittle, not strong, used for flooring and cooking wood, especially for barbeques. The tree is cultivated widely for its nuts, and many varieties have been developed and are sold in large quantities.

Similar Species:

Water hickory (*Carya aquatica*) grows on very wet sites in East Texas and has narrow leaves and a small, flattened nut; black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) has more leaflets, leaves that are pubescent underneath, and a large, round fruit without seams on the husk.

Interesting Facts:

Pecan is the state tree of Texas.



Texas Fruit and Nut Production

Pomegranates

Larry Stein, Jim Kamas, and Monte Nesbitt,
Extension Fruit Specialists, The Texas A&M University System

Interest in growing pomegranates has increased in recent years because their pulp and juice contain high levels of antioxidants, which are thought to improve health. The shrub also has orange-red flowers and colorful fruit that make it an attractive ornamental.

In ancient days, pomegranates were carried in desert caravans for their thirst-quenching juice. The plant has been grown for thousands of years throughout the Mediterranean regions of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Spanish missionaries introduced it to the Americas in the 1500s.

Like crape myrtles, the pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) is a member of the Lythraceae family, which includes about 620 species. Although the plant can be trained as a small tree, it is more commonly grown as a bushy shrub (Fig. 1).

The fruit is yellow to bright red and up to about 4 inches in diameter, about the size of a large orange (Fig. 2). On the blossom end, it has a cuplike organ called a *calyx*. The rind is smooth and leathery.

Pomegranates have many seeds that are surrounded by crimson, pink, purplish, or white covers called *arils*. The arils are the edible parts of the fruit (Fig. 3). They are sweet, juicy, and variable in acidity; some varieties can be quite tart.

The leaves are deciduous, dark green, and usually glossy. The plant often has thorns along its branches.

Pomegranates grow well in areas with hot, dry summers. Some varieties can tolerate temperatures as low

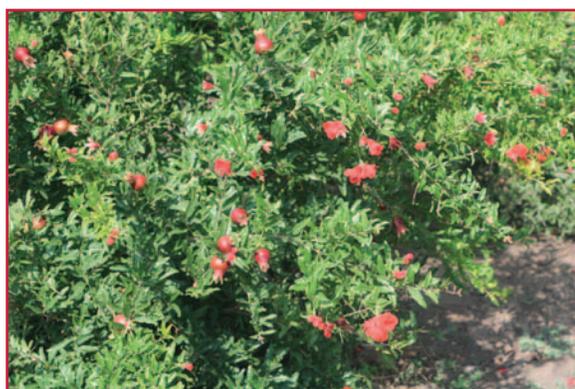


Figure 1. A pomegranate shrub.



Figure 2. Bright red pomegranates and the sweet, red, juicy, edible arils.



Figure 3. Fruit and arils of the 'Wonderful' pomegranate variety.

as 10°F; others are damaged at 18°F. They are grown as far north as Zone 7b of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zone Map (Fig. 4).

Many fruiting types should survive most winters throughout the central, southern, and southeastern parts of Texas. Studies are under way on varieties that survive typical winters in north central Texas and produce fruit; these include Al-sirin-nar, Salavatski, and Russian 18.

Soil

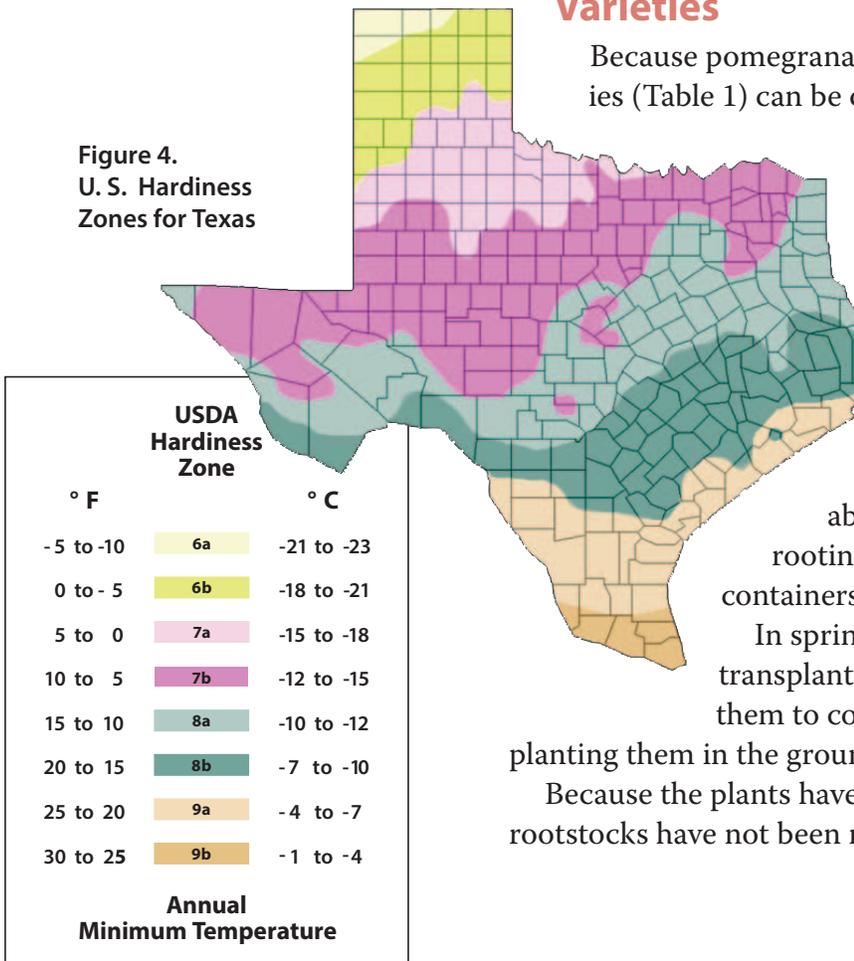
Pomegranates can grow in almost any soil that has good internal drainage. They grow very well on the moderately alkaline soils of South Texas and northern Mexico, as well as the slightly acidic soils in East Texas.

Some pomegranates tolerate salt better than do other commercial fruit crops. On new sites, have the soil tested for nutrients and salinity to help determine how much to water and fertilize.

Varieties

Because pomegranates are not quarantined, named varieties (Table 1) can be ordered from out-of-state nurseries if they are unavailable locally.

Figure 4. U. S. Hardiness Zones for Texas



Propagation

Pomegranates root readily from hardwood cuttings taken in winter during pruning. Although the size of the wood does not seem to affect rooting, pencil-sized cuttings are easiest to work with. Cut sections about 6 to 14 inches long, dip them in rooting hormone, and stick them upright in containers of well-drained potting soil.

In spring after the cuttings begin growing, transplant them into gallon containers and allow them to continue growing for 4 to 6 weeks before planting them in the ground.

Because the plants have performed well on their own roots, rootstocks have not been needed.

Texas Red Oak

Quercus buckleyi

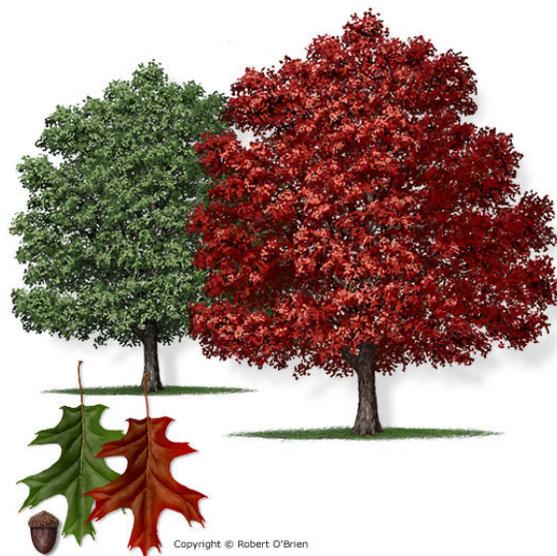
Secondary Names:

Buckley Oak, Texas Oak, Spanish Oak

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



Tree Description:

Usually a medium-sized tree to 35 feet tall with one or more trunks 10" in diameter, but can reach heights of 70 feet on fertile sites.

Range/Site Description:

Found on dry, limestone hills and ridges, and sometimes in the more fertile soils at their base, in Central Texas west to the Edwards Plateau.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 3" to 5" long and 2.5" to 3" wide, widest above the middle, divided into 5 to 7 bristle-tipped lobes, with the terminal lobe often 3-lobed and the sinuses usually deep. Leaves have a slender petiole about 1" long, are dark green and shiny above, paler below, and turn deep shades of red in the fall.

Flower:

Male and female flowers borne separately in spring on the same tree; male catkins 1.5" to 3.5" long, yellowish-green, female flowers reddish, about 0.5" long, usually solitary.

Fruit:

An acorn, requiring two years to mature, usually single or in pairs, short-stalked, reddish-brown, pubescent, and often streaked with dark lines; measuring 0.25" to 0.75" long, ovoid, and set in a cup that covers one-quarter to one-half of the fruit.

Bark:

Dark gray to black, smooth at first, then very rough with deep fissures and ridges.

Wood:

Used for fuelwood and posts. Also used as a landscape tree in Central Texas.

Similar Species:

Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) is very similar and the two species hybridize naturally where they occur together, but Shumard oak acorns are usually larger with a shallow cup and the leaves often have broader lobes.

Interesting Facts:

The spread of oak wilt disease in Central Texas can often be linked to the movement of firewood from infected red oaks. These trees produce "fungal mats" under the bark where certain insects feed; it is these insects that can infect new trees where the firewood has been moved.

TREES & plants



Shantung maple

Shantung maple, an Asian species, makes a good specimen or street tree. It is also small enough to use under power lines. The glossy foliage emerges with a reddish color and then changes to a dark green. In fall, the foliage takes on shades of yellow, orange, red and even some purple.

This plant has some cultivated varieties. [Go to list of cultivars.](#)



Botanical name: *Acer truncatum*

All Common Names: Shantung maple, purpleblow maple

Family (English): Soapberry (formerly Maple)

Family (Botanic): Sapindaceae (formerly Aceraceae)

Planting Site: Residential and parks, City parkway, Wide median, Under utility lines

Tree or Plant Type: Tree

Foliage: Deciduous (seasonally loses leaves)

Native Locale: Non-native

Landscape Uses: Parkway/street, Shade tree, Specimen, Utility

Size Range: Small tree (15-25 feet)

Mature Height: 20-25 feet

Mature Width: 15-25 feet

Light Exposure: Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily), Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Hardiness Zones: Zone 4, Zone 5 (Chicago), Zone 6,

Zone 7, Zone 8

Soil Preference: Acid soil, Moist, well-drained soil

Tolerances: Dry sites, Occasional drought, Occasional flooding, Alkaline soil, Clay soil, Road salt

Acid Soils: Prefers

Alkaline Soils: Moderately Tolerant

Salt Spray: Moderately Tolerant

Soil Salt: Intolerant

Drought Conditions: Tolerant

Poor Drainage: Tolerant

Ornamental Interest: Fall color, Showy flowers

Season of Interest: Early fall, Mid fall

Flower Color & Fragrance: Yellow

Shape or Form: Round

Growth Rate: Slow

Transplants Well: Yes

Wildlife: Insect pollinators

More Information:

Tree & Plant Care

Avoid pruning in early spring as maples are 'bleeders' and will lose large amounts of sap.

Disease, pests, and problems

Susceptible to verticillium wilt and anthracnose.

Disease, pest, and problem resistance

Fairly resistant to leaf scorch.

Native geographic location and habitat

Native to China, Japan and Korea.

Bark color and texture

Bark is grayish with a hint of purple on young trees. Older bark becomes ridged and furrowed.

Leaf or needle arrangement, size, shape, and texture

Simple leaves in pairs (opposite); 3 to 5 inches long and wide. Leaves have 5 to 7 triangular lobes, giving the leaf a star-shaped outline.

The dark green leaves emerge with a reddish cast that disappears before summer. In fall, the leaves change to a mix of yellow, red and orange.

Flower arrangement, shape, and size

Small, pale yellow flowers in upright, rounded clusters.

Inconspicuous by themselves, but fairly showy when the whole tree is in flower.

Fruit, cone, nut, and seed descriptions

Fruit are winged seeds in pairs (samaras); each wing is 1 to 1 1/2 inches long and the two wings are spread at a wide angle.

Cultivars and their differences

The cultivars presented here are hybrids resulting from crosses between *Acer truncatum* (Shantung maple) and *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple).

Crimson Sunset® maple (*Acer truncatum* x *Acer platanoides* 'JFS-KW202'): A more heat and drought tolerant cultivar with purple summer foliage; grows 35 feet high and 25 feet wide.

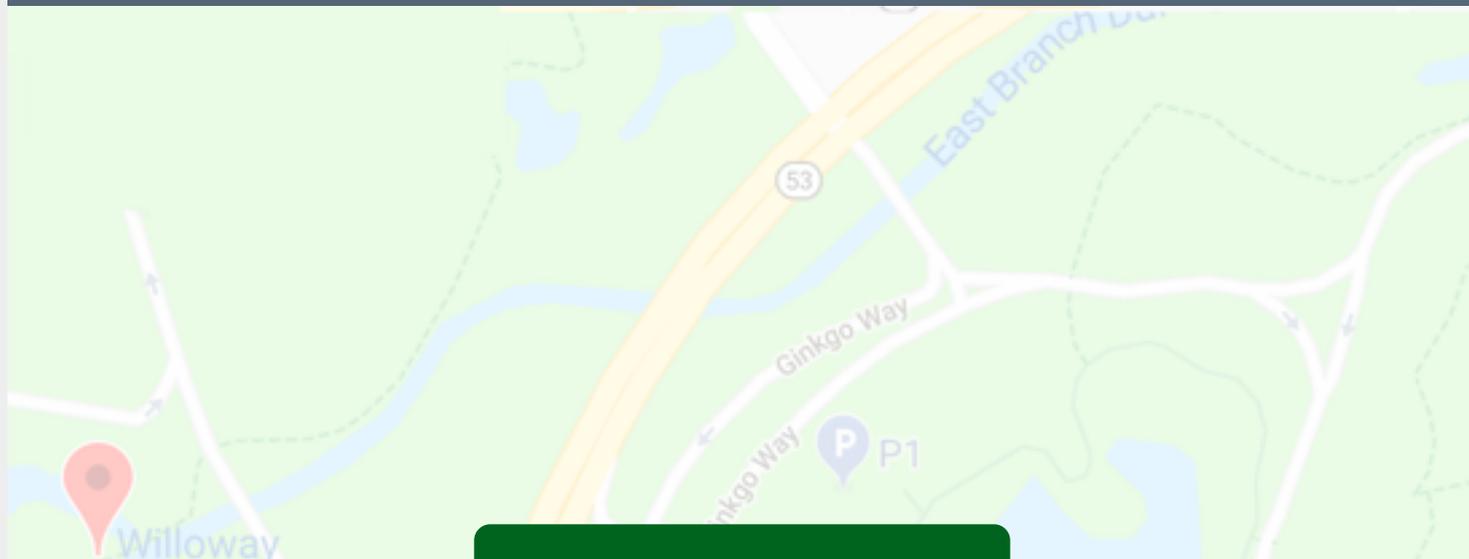
Norwegian Sunset® maple (*Acer truncatum* x *Acer platanoides* 'Keithsform'): This cultivar has a uniform structure and good heat tolerance. Dark green foliage changes yellow-orange to red in fall. Grows 35 feet high and 25 feet wide.

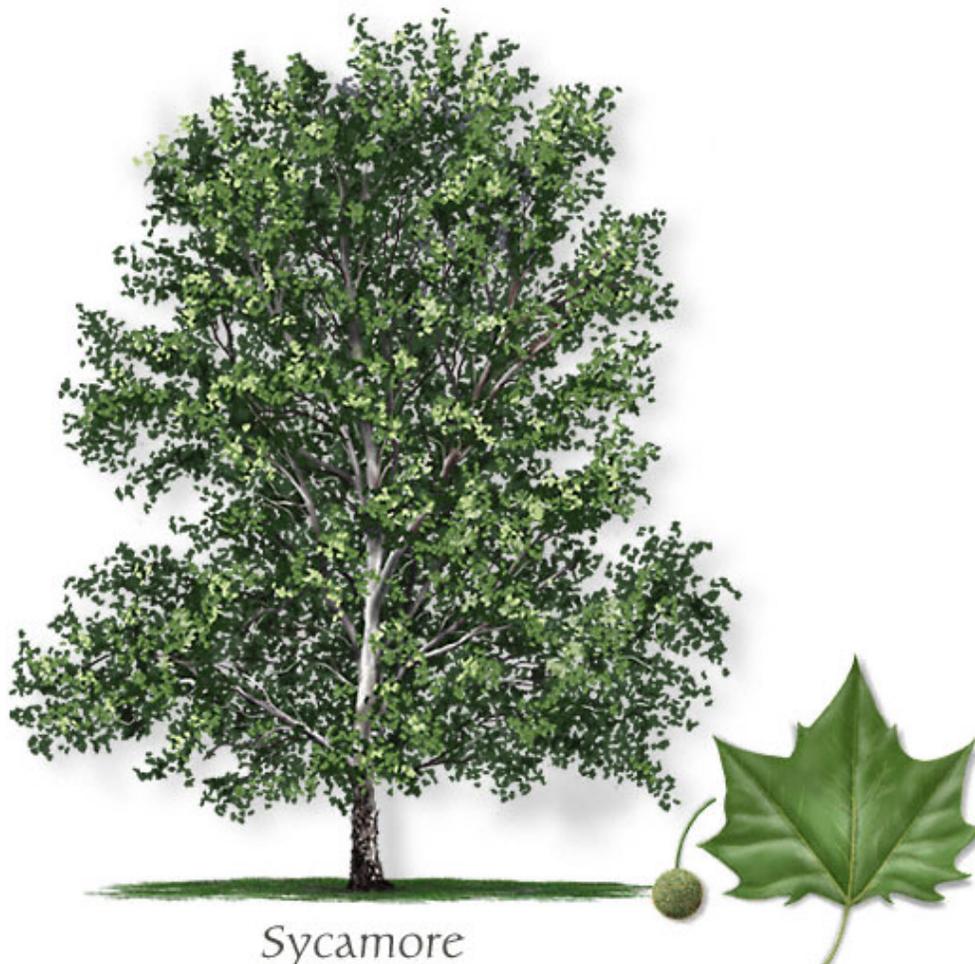
Pacific Sunset® maple (*Acer truncatum* x *Acer platanoides* 'Warrenred'): Dark, glossy green leaves change to yellow-orange and red in fall. Finer branch texture than Norwegian Sunset®. Grows 30 feet high and 25 feet wide.

Ruby Sunset® maple (*Acer truncatum* x *Acer platanoides* 'JFS-KW249'): Dark green, glossy foliage changes to deep red in fall. More compact form, growing 25 feet high and 20 feet wide.



Location of *Acer truncatum* (Shantung maple) at the Arboretum





Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis

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- Common Name:** Sycamore (American Planetree)
- Latin Name:** *Platanus occidentalis*
- Tree Size:** Large
- Leaf Type:** Deciduous
- Growth Rate:** Rapid
- Water Needs:** Moderate
- Tolerances:** Poorly drained sites, alkaline soils (pH > 7.5)
- Attributes:** Texas native, attractive seeds or fruit
- Features:** Old bark flakes off to reveal pale new bark. Round fruit is a mass of small seeds.
- Comments:** Provide plenty of room and a moist site. Mexican Sycamore (*P. mexicana*) is more drought-tolerant.
- Problems:** Fruit and leaf drop. Anthracnose, stem cankers.
- Firewise:** Yes

[Back](#) | [Print Results](#) | [Tree Planting Tools](#)

Western Soapberry

Sapindus saponaria var. *drummondii*

Secondary Names:

Wild Chinaberry, Jaboncillo

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



Tree Description:

A medium to large tree, attaining a height of 40 to 50 and a trunk diameter of 1 to 2 feet, with erect branches that form an oval or rounded crown.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs throughout Texas, but less common in the Pineywoods and the South Texas plains, growing on moist clay soils, dry limestone uplands, or along fencerows, borrow ditches, or streamsides. Sometimes forms dense thickets.

Leaf:

Alternate, once-compound, 6" to 18" long, with 4 to 9 pairs of leaflets that usually alternate on the rachis (or opposite each other, or both); leaflets are lanceolate, about 1.5" to 4" long and 0.5" to 0.75" wide, margin smooth, pale yellow-green, sometimes pubescent underneath, with prominent veins. The leaves turn yellow in the fall.

Flower:

Male and female flowers borne on separate trees as large branched clusters of white flowers 6" to 10" long; close inspection is required to tell if the flowers are male or female.

Fruit:

Female trees bear clusters of round yellowish fruits, about 0.5" in diameter, fleshy, soft, and translucent, containing dark brown seeds. Fruits ripen in September and October but persist until spring, and are poisonous if ingested.

Bark:

Gray or tan, with red-brown scales that develop into narrow plates that peel away from the trunk slightly.

Wood:

Heavy, strong, close-grained, light brown tinged with yellow. It splits easily into thin strips and is used for baskets and the frames of pack saddles.

Similar Species:

Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) has similar leaves that turn orange or red in the fall with red clusters of berries.

Interesting Facts:

The fleshy part of the fruit is rich in "saponins," and was used by Native Americans as a soap substitute; the seeds were used to make necklace beads. The yellow fruits and the common name "wild china" often confuse this species with the non-native Chinaberry tree (*Melia azederach*). Larger trees are susceptible to being killed by the soapberry borer (*Agrilus prionurus*), a non-native pest from Mexico recently discovered in Texas.