



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

2018

Recommended Trees
for
Wichita County Area



Contents

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| i. | Title page | 10. | Golden Raintree
Details |
| ii. | Table of Contents | | |
| 1. | Introduction | 11. | Lacebark Elm |
| 2. | Bur Oak | 12. | Lacebark Elm
Details |
| 3. | Cedar Elm | 13. | Live Oak |
| 4. | Cedar Elm Details | 14. | Live Oak Details |
| 5. | Chinese Pistache | 15. | Vitex |
| 6. | Chinese Pistach Details | 16. | Vitex Details |
| 7. | Chinkapin Oak | 17. | Notes |
| 8. | Chinkapin Oak Details | 19. | Link Page |
| 9. | Golden Raintree | | |

Near the end of a severe 4 year drought, AgriLife Extension asked local tree experts to help identify local trees that survived with minimal water and no significant tree issues.

*A special thanks to those who assisted:
Benny Butler, Jason Cooper, Steve Smith,
Paul Dowlearn, and Cattie Jackson.*

Introduction

The trees selected are not a conclusive list and their order in the booklet is not listed in regard to preference of one tree over another. The purpose of the tree, available space, and desired location are just a few of the criteria for consideration before selecting a tree.

For more information contact:
Wichita County Extension office
600 Scott St. Ste 200
Wichita Falls, Tx 76301
940-716-8610
wichita-tx@tamu.edu
wichita.agrilife.org

Wichita Master Gardeners Assn.
txmg.org/wichita/

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/>

Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native

Firewise

Rapid Growth Rate



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Tree Description:

A large tree of the prairies reaching a height of 80 feet or more and a trunk diameter of 5 feet, with a short body and heavy branches that form an open, spreading crown of dark green foliage.

Range/Site Description:

Occurs on limestone soils in Central Texas as far west as Tom Green county, often on rich bottomlands along streams or hillsides and banks along spring-fed rivers. Also planted widely as a landscape tree throughout Texas.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 6" to 12" long and 3" to 6" wide, with 5 to 9 highly variable lobes that lack bristle-tips; lobes are divided by at least one pair of very deep sinuses, and the upper one-third of the leaf typically has a roughly-toothed or weakly-lobed margin.

Flower:

Separate male and female flowers appear in spring on the same tree. Male flowers borne on a yellowish catkin 4" to 6" long; inconspicuous female flowers reddish in color.

Fruit:

An acorn, requiring a single season to mature, 1" to 2" long, ovoid, set deeply in a mossy-fringed cup that gives the species its common name.

Bark:

Twigs and branches are thick, developing conspicuous corky ridges after the second year; bark is light gray, rough and breaks into small, narrow flakes on young trees, then develops very thick bark with deep fissures and narrow plates.

Wood:

Heavy, hard, strong, tough and durable; used for lumber, crossties, and fuelwood.

Similar Species:

White oak (*Quercus alba*) is found in East Texas and has smaller acorns without a fringed cup.

Cedar Elm *Ulmus crassifolia*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native

Firewise



Tree Size: Large

Growth Rate: Moderate

Water Needs: Moderate

Attributes: reliable fall color

Features: Fine textured leaves turn yellow in fall.

Problems: Drooping branches may require pruning; aphids, powdery mildew, and mistletoe are notable pests.

Cedar Elm Details

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:

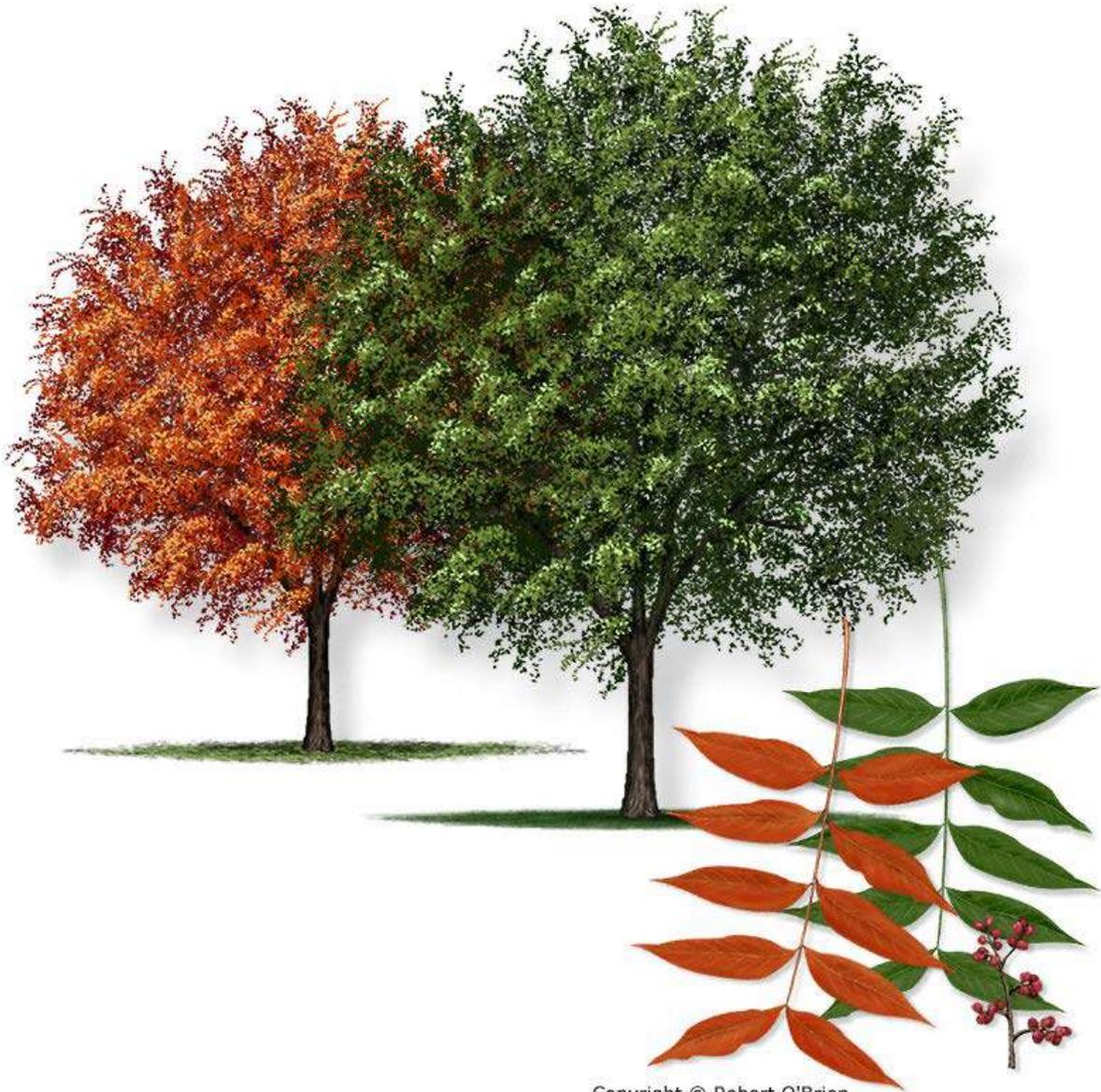
Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*) has larger leaves and seeds that mature in spring; varieties of Chinese elm (*U. parvifolia*) have similar leaves, but the bark is distinctly orange and flaky.

Chinese Pistache *Pistacia chinensis*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native:

Firewise:



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Chinese Pistache Details

Tree Description:

A medium-sized landscape tree to 40 feet tall and wide, 12" to 18" in diameter, and brilliant fall color. Branch structure is irregular and it often develops co-dominant leaders.

Range/Site Description:

Native to China, this species is now commonly available for landscape plantings in Texas. It tolerates a wide range of conditions, including drought, heat, and alkaline soils.

Leaf:

Alternately arranged on the twigs, once-compound, 10" to 16" long, with an even number of leaflets, usually 10 to 16, each 2" to 4" long and up to 0.75" wide, turning bright yellow, orange, and red in the fall. Leaflets are often staggered along the rachis, not opposite one another.

Flower:

A branched spike of small, greenish flowers appears in spring above the foliage. Male and female flowers appear on separate trees.

Fruit:

On female trees, a branched, red cluster of round berries, each about 0.33" in diameter.

Bark:

Light tan to gray, exfoliating in small strips or flakes, developing a rough texture with age.

Wood:

Sold in the nursery trade for landscape plantings.

Chinkapin Oak *Quercus muehlenbergii*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native:

Firewise:



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Tree Size: Large

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Moderate

Water Needs: Moderate

Tolerances: Drought, alkaline soils

(pH > 7.5)

Attributes: Texas native, reliable fall color,
seeds or fruit eaten by wildlife

Features: Attractive, light-colored bark; deep green leaf color creates a lush appearance.

Comments: Good for limestone soils; excellent shade tree!

Problems: Fallen acorns can be a nuisance.

Chinkapin Oak Details

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:

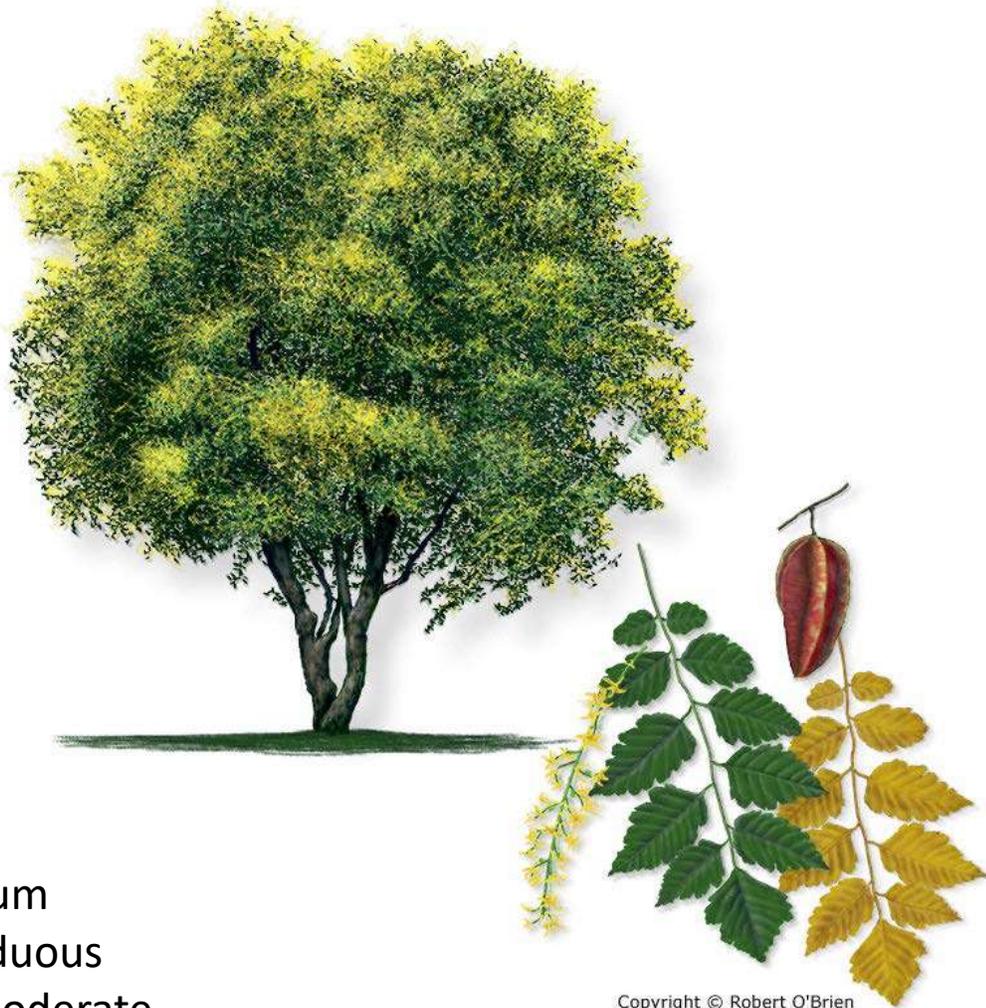
Chinkapin oak is named because of the resemblance of the leaves to the Allegheny chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*), a relative of American chestnut (*C. dentata*).

Goldenraintree *Koelreuteria paniculata*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native:

Firewise



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Tree Size: Medium

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Moderate

Water Needs: Moderate

Tolerances: **Salty soil** or sea-spray, drought, alkaline soils (pH > 7.5)

Attributes: reliable fall color, showy or fragrant flower, attractive seeds or fruit

Features: Large sprays of yellow flowers in spring and attractive brown seed pods in late summer.

Comments: All-around good selection for urban settings. *K. bipinnata* may flower better in South Texas.

Problems: Requires pruning to develop strong branch structure.

Firewise: Yes

Goldenraintree Details

Tree Description:

A small to medium-sized landscape tree with a round crown, to 40 feet tall and a trunk 12" to 16" in diameter.

Range/Site Description:

Native to Korea, China, and Japan, it performs best on well-drained soil, but will tolerate a wide range of urban conditions including heat, drought, and poor soils.

Leaf:

Compound, alternating on the twigs, with 11 or more stalked leaflets, each 1" to 3" long, bluntly-toothed or lobed along the margin and abruptly wedge-shaped at the base. Leaves are medium to dark green in summer, turning brilliant gold in the fall. Branches, leaves and twigs without thorns.

Flower:

Long spikes of bright yellow flowers, up to 12" long, appear above the foliage May through July.

Fruit:

The light green seed pods are 1" to 2" long, papery, look like "Chinese lanterns" in late summer, then turn brown and persist through fall.

Bark:

Light brown or tan, thin, easily damaged, developing fissures and thin plates on older trunks.

Wood:

Sold in the nursery trade as a landscape tree

Lacebark Elm *Ulmus parvifolia*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native

Firewise



Growth Rate: Rapid

Water Needs: Moderate

Tolerances: Drought, alkaline soils
(pH > 7.5)

Attributes: reliable fall color

Features: Variable fall color;
interesting bark texture. Good for
urban situations.

Comments: Do not confuse with the undesirable Siberian Elm!
'Drake' is a good nursery cultivar.

Problems: Requires pruning to develop strong branch structure.

Lacebark Elm Details

Tree Description:

A medium-sized landscape shade tree to 40 feet tall, with a broad, vase-shaped crown and graceful, drooping branchlets.

Range/Site Description:

Native to China, Japan, and Korea, this common landscape tree has several cultivars. It tolerates a wide range of site conditions, including drought, some salt, and alkaline soils (pH > 7.5)

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 1" to 3" long, generally oval in shape, margin finely- or bluntly-toothed, leaf base slightly inequilateral, leaf surface usually dark green, dull.

Flower:

Green, inconspicuous, appearing in the fall.

Fruit:

Small, round, seeds enclosed in a papery wing up to 0.33" long.

Bark:

Thin and dark brown when young, with horizontal lenticels appearing on branches and trunk; older trees develop random exfoliating patches that reveal brown, gray, orange, or green bark underneath.

Wood:

Sold in nurseries as a landscape tree.

Similar Species:

Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) has been widely planted for shade in West Texas and has thick, grayish bark. Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) is a landscape tree with smooth gray, exfoliating bark and leaves 3-6" long.

Live Oak *Quercus virginiana*

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Texas Native:

Firewise:



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Live Oak Details

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.

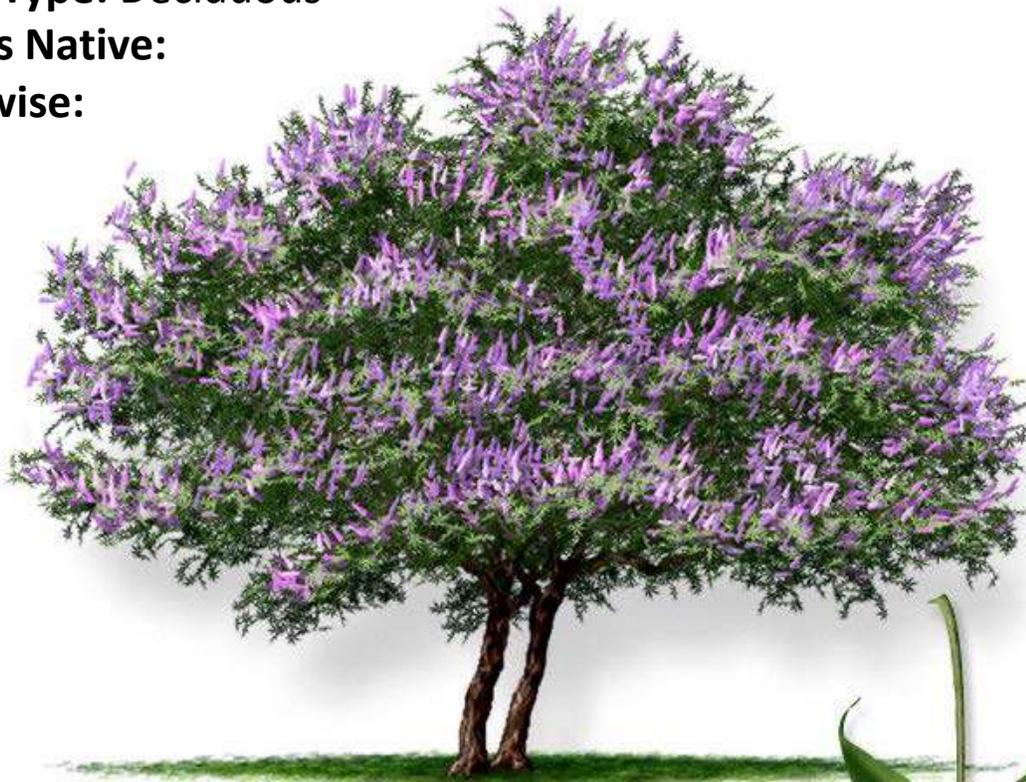
Vitex/Lilac Chastetree *Vitex agnus-castus*

“Texas Lilac”

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native:

Firewise:



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Vitex/Lilac Chastetree Details

Tree Description:

A large shrub or small landscape tree to 15 feet tall, often multi-trunked, twisted, with a spreading crown.

Range/Site Description:

Native to Europe and Asia, it prefers well-drained soils of any texture, but performs poorly on wet sites. Tolerates heat and alkaline soils well.

Leaf:

Blue-green, compound, opposite, with 5 to 7 leaflets arranged palmately, each leaflet 1" to 3" long on a short stalk.

Flower:

Dense, slender, 6" long spikes of white or lavender flowers appear in late spring and summer above the foliage.

Fruit:

Brown to black, fleshy fruits dry into short clusters and persist through winter.

Bark:

Gray, smooth, developing into irregular blocks.

Wood:

Flowers produce excellent honey; seeds once used as a sedative, the leaves for medicinal use. Sold as a landscape tree in nurseries.

NOTES

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE

<http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/>

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/>

TREE PRUNING TIPS

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/>

TAMU Plant Disease Handbook

<http://plantdiseasehandbook.tamu.edu/>

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