

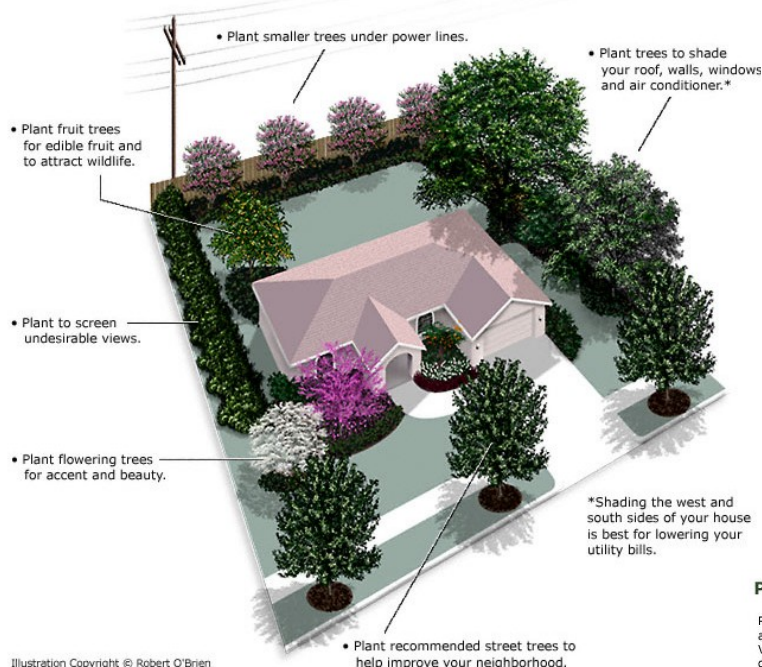
Aug. 2013

Texas Tree Planting Guide

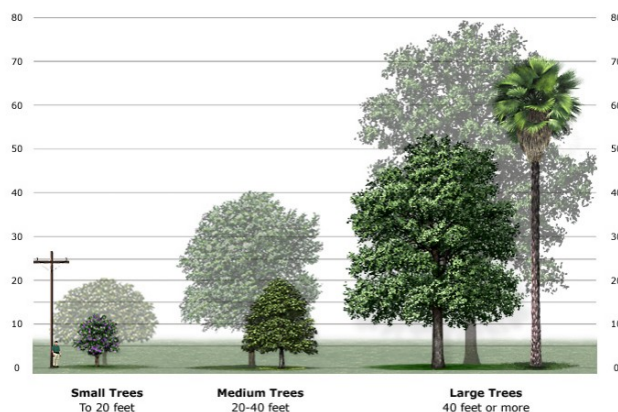


TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

Landscaping Around Your House



Relative Tree Sizes

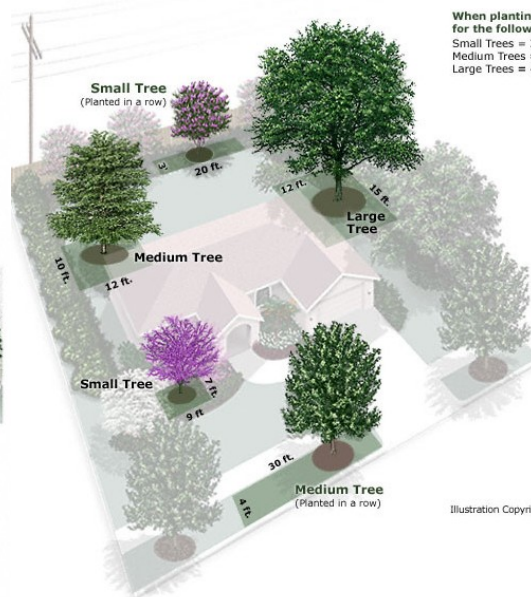


Plan for Your Available Growing Space

Plan your planting to ensure enough growing space is available for your tree at its mature height and spread. View the tree description page for your chosen tree to determine its size at maturity.

Minimum Planting Space Requirements
Small Trees = 60 square feet
Medium Trees = 120 square feet
Large Trees = 180 square feet

When planting trees in rows, allow for the following growing space:
Small Trees = 3 x 20 feet
Medium Trees = 4 x 30 feet
Large Trees = 4 x 45 feet



Avoiding Problems With Your Tree

- Avoid blocking visibility of traffic signs or street corners.



- Avoid planting trees too close together.

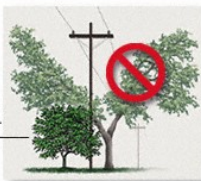


- Avoid planting too close to sidewalks, streets or driveways.

- Avoid blocking access to utility transformers.

- Avoid planting too close to house, chimney or other structure.

- Avoid planting large trees near utility lines. Plant trees smaller than 20 feet instead.



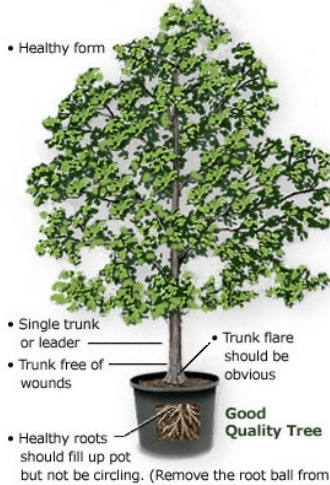
- Also Avoid:**
- Encroaching on a neighbor
 - Blocking views
 - Shading garden

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Select a Good Quality Tree at the Nursery

A High Quality Tree Has:

- Enough sound roots to support healthy growth.
- A single, central trunk or leader
- A trunk free of mechanical wounds and wounds from incorrect pruning.
- A strong form with well-spaced, firmly attached branches.
- Leaves with good color and no obvious insect or disease damage



A Low Quality Tree Has:

- Crushed or circling roots in a small root ball or small container.
- A trunk with wounds from mechanical impacts or incorrect pruning.
- A weak form in which multiple stems squeeze against each other or branches squeeze against the trunk.

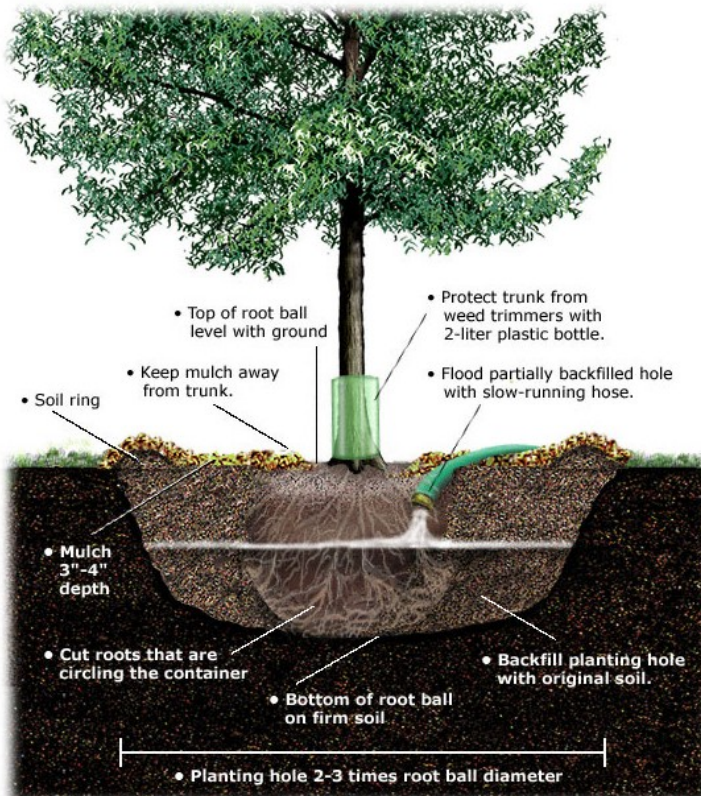


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Finishing the Job:

- Remove tags and labels.
- Do not stake the trunk unless the tree has a large crown, or the planting is situated on a windy site or where people may push them over. Stake for a maximum of one year. NOTE: Evergreens rarely require staking.
- Soak soil well, making sure no air pockets form between roots.
- Add 2" - 3" of mulch, taking care to keep it away from the trunk.
- Prune basal suckers (sprouts that grow out at the base of a tree)
- Do not prune terminal leader or branch tips.
- Prune any co-dominate leaders or narrow crotch angles.
- Prune rubbing of crossed branches.
- Prune any broken branches.

Plant Your Tree Properly



How Far You Should Plant From Utility Lines

- Plant canopy trees (25 feet and larger) at least 20 feet from power lines.
- Plant only small trees (20 feet and smaller) within 5 feet of power lines, and within 8 feet of power poles.

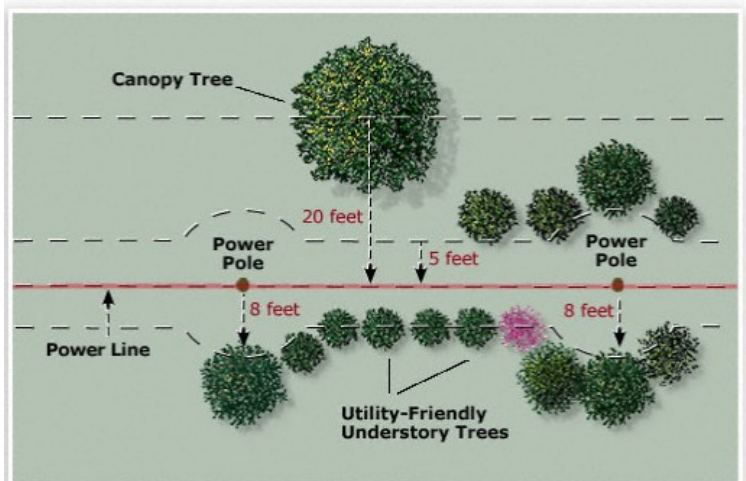


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Pruning a Large Limb

- 1 Undercut 12-24" up from the branch collar. This stops the bark from tearing.
- 2 Make the second cut from the top all the way through the branch, 2-3" above cut #1.

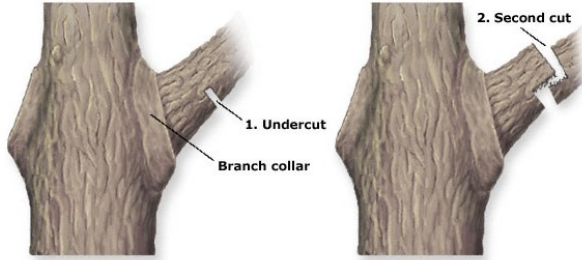


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Pruning Your Tree

Remove branches shown with dotted lines:

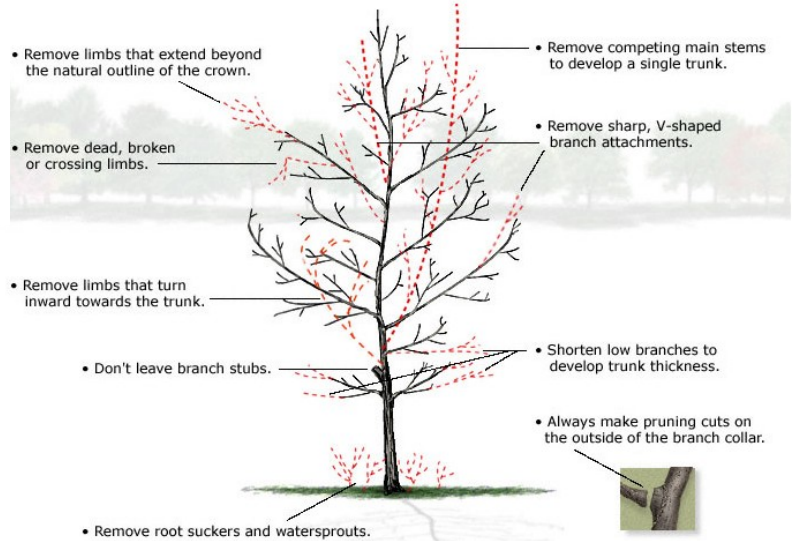


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[Click here to view proper three-cut pruning method.](#)

Recommended small trees for Williamson County



American Smoketree

Cotinus obovatus

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: One of the best trees for fall color. Might be hard to find in the nursery.



Anacacho Orchid-tree

Bauhinia congesta

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Delicate-looking native tree with showy flowers.



Bluewood

Condalia hookeri

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Good tree for wildlife.



Common Crapemyrtle

Lagerstroemia indica

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Many sizes and colors available, but 'National Arboretum' cultivars are excellent choices.



Crabapple

Malus spp.

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Blanco Crabapple is endemic to the Hill Country. Many other cultivars available.



Desert-Willow

Chilopsis linearis

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Hybrid with Northern Catalpa produces 'Chitalpa.'



Goldenball Leadtree

Leucaena retusa

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Can spread from seed into the surrounding landscape.



Hawthorn

Crataegus spp.

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Several species and varieties available, such as 'Parsley' and 'Washington.'



Huisache

Acacia farnesiana

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Tough native tree with sweet-smelling spring flowers.



Japanese Black Pine

Pinus thunbergii

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Often used in beachfront areas, or as a specimen tree in a raised planter.



Jerusalem-Thorn

Parkinsonia aculeata

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Provides sparse shade, but well-suited to hot, dry locations.



Mexican Plum

Prunus mexicana

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Good fall color, yellow to red to purple; prefers well-drained soils.



Mexican Redbud

Cercis canadensis var. mexicana

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Southwestern variety suited for drier sites.

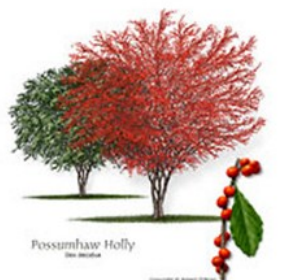


Mexican-Buckeye

Ungnadia speciosa

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Good as a specimen tree.



Possumhaw

Ilex decidua

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Striking native plant. Choose female plants in the nursery for the berries.



Prairie Flameleaf Sumac

Rhus lanceolata

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Root sprouts and suckers require regular maintenance to keep tree shape.



Rusty Blackhaw

Viburnum rufidulum

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Excellent specimen tree with few problems. Showy flowers. Needs good drainage.



Texas Madrone

Arbutus texana

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Extremely drought-tolerant native with striking flowers, bark, and fruit.



Texas Mountain-Laurel

Sophora secundiflora
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Excellent drought-tolerant specimen. Outstanding spring blooms. Seeds are toxic.



Texas Persimmon

Diospyros texana
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Drought-tolerant native with attractive exfoliating bark.



Texas Pistache

Pistacia texana
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Fruits are a preferred wildlife food.



Texas Redbud

Cercis canadensis var. *texensis*
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Good choice for Central and West Texas.



Vitex

Vitex agnus-castus
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Could be invasive in certain areas.



Windmill Palm

Trachycarpus fortunei
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: A small palm for use in small spaces, or close to the shore.

Recommended medium trees for Williamson County



American Holly

Ilex opaca
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: A striking landscape tree, can be used as a screen. Plant away from pedestrian areas.



Bigtooth Maple

Acer grandidentatum
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Hill Country native. Good for moist, well-drained limestone soils; handles shady sites.



Carolina Laurelcherry

Prunus caroliniana
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Makes a good vertical screen; requires well-drained soil.



Eastern Redcedar

Juniperus virginiana
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Often used as a windbreak. 'Canaertii' is a cultivar used as a specimen tree.



Escarpment Black Cherry

Prunus serotina var. *eximia*
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Attractive, upright tree with showy fall color and interesting bark. Not for heavy, clay soils.



Eve's-Necklace

Sophora affinis
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Requires well-drained site; fruits are avoided by wildlife.



Goldenrain tree

Koelreuteria paniculata

Leaf Type: Deciduous

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



Honey Mesquite

Prosopis glandulosa

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Extremely drought-tolerant native. Prune to develop strong branch and trunk structure.



Lacebark Elm

Ulmus parvifolia

Leaf Type: Deciduous

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



Lacey Oak

Quercus glaucoides

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Unusual, native oak with bluish foliage. Also known as Q. laceyi.



Mexican Pinyon Pine

Pinus cembroides

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Good as specimen tree or living Christmas tree, but must have good drainage.



Mexican White Oak

Quercus polymorpha

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Also known as 'Monterrey Oak,' this species is rapidly becoming used as an urban landscape tree.



Pinyon Pine

Pinus edulis

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Requires good drainage; used as a living Christmas tree.



Texas Ash

Fraxinus texensis

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Good long-lived shade tree. Prefers loamy, well-drained soils, but works on dry sites as well.



Texas Red Oak

Quercus buckleyi

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Several "red oaks" available; Also referred to as Q. texana.



Texas Sabal Palm

Sabal texana

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Only palm tree native to Texas; cold-tolerant; can be difficult to find nursery stock.



Texas Walnut

Juglans microcarpa

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: A small version of the black walnut. Works well as a highway planting or in a park setting.



Western Soapberry

Sapindus drummondii

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Bright yellow fall color and large, amber berries in fall through winter.

Recommended large trees for Williamson County



American Elm

Ulmus americana

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Fast-growing, vase-shaped shade tree that tolerates a wide range of conditions.



Arizona Cypress

Cupressus arizonica

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Good plant for screening that is well-suited to limestone soils.



Baldcypress

Taxodium distichum

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Adapted to many soil and moisture conditions. Grows well in wet areas.



Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Excellent, drought-tolerant native tree, with rough texture and large acorn



California Washingtonia

Washingtonia filifera

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Commonly available palm from California or Florida nurseries.



Cedar Elm

Ulmus crassifolia

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Tough, drought-tolerant shade tree, well-adapted to a variety of conditions.



Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Good for limestone soils; excellent shade tree!



Green Ash

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Needs pruning to develop strong branch structure.



Italian Stone Pine

Pinus pinea

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: Edible pine 'nuts.'



Live Oak

Quercus virginiana

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: The Escarpment Live Oak is a closely related native species more suited to Central and West Texas.



Mexican Sycamore

Platanus mexicana

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Resistant to bacterial leaf scorch and drought conditions.



Montezuma Baldcypress

Taxodium mucronatum

Leaf Type: Evergreen

Comments: South Texas relative of Baldcypress. Leaves become deciduous when planted north of San Antonio.



Pecan

Carya illinoensis

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: State tree of Texas. Plant with plenty of room.



Shumard Oak

Quercus shumardii

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Widely available; prefers well-drained soils. Seed source of trees may determine success.



Southern Catalpa

Catalpa bignonioides

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Tough tree for open areas away from walkways; catalpa worms are a prized fish bait.



Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Provide plenty of room and a moist site. Mexican Sycamore (*P. mexicana*) is more drought-tolerant.



Thornless

Honeylocust

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis*

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Comments: Will shed limbs to survive drought. 'Shademaster' is an excellent nursery variety.