

# Xeriscape™

## Landscape Water Conservation



Xeriscape and the Xeriscape logo are trademarks of the Denver Water Department.

*Douglas F. Welsh, Extension Horticulturist  
William C. Welch, Extension Landscape Horticulturist  
The Texas A&M University System*

Water has become a critical issue for the future prosperity of Texas. Booming populations have increased the demand on the state's already limited supply of high-quality water. In addition, seasonal fluctuations in rainfall and periodic droughts create a feast-to-famine cycle in Texas.

In urban areas, about 25 percent of the water supply is used to water landscapes and gardens. In the summer, as much as 60 percent of the water the average household uses may be for landscape maintenance. Many traditional landscapes require large amounts of water, and much of this water is applied inefficiently.

To reduce the excessive use of water for maintaining landscapes, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service encourages Texans to adopt Xeriscape landscaping. This concept conserves water and protects the environment. Xeriscape landscapes need not be cactus and rock gardens. They can be cool, green landscapes full of beautiful plants maintained with water-efficient practices.

The seven water-saving principles of Xeriscape landscaping are not new; they have been practiced in the landscape industry for decades. Combining all seven into a comprehensive program of landscape water conservation is what makes Xeriscape landscaping unique. The principles are:

- ★ Planning and design
- ★ Soil analysis and preparation
- ★ Practical turf areas
- ★ Appropriate plant selection
- ★ Efficient irrigation
- ★ Use of mulches
- ★ Appropriate maintenance

By incorporating these seven principles, you can help preserve our most precious natural resource—water.

### **Start With a Plan**

Creating a water-efficient landscape begins with a well-thought-out landscape

design. Sketch your yard, showing the locations of buildings, trees, shrubs, gardens and grass areas. Then consider how you use the various areas of your yard, how you want your yard to look, the amount of maintenance you plan to give it, and the budget you can afford. Also pinpoint the areas of your landscape that require the most water. The purpose of planning is to design a landscape that will have the appearance and function you desire while conserving water. Local landscape architects, designers, nurserymen and county Extension agents can help in this decision making. You can implement your landscape design gradually over several years.

### **Analyze and Prepare the Soil**

Have your soil tested. (Your county Extension agent can tell you how.) The test results will tell you what kinds and amounts of fertilizer your soil needs, and whether you should add organic matter. Most soils benefit greatly from organic matter. Adding organic matter to the soil of shrub and flower bed areas makes plants healthier. Organic matter also helps the soil absorb and store water. As a rule-of-thumb, till in 4 to 6 inches of organic material such as shredded pine bark, compost or leaves. It is not necessary to incorporate organic matter for trees, and for large turfgrass areas it is not economically feasible.

### **Be Practical with Turf Areas**

When designing the landscape, keep in mind that turfgrasses need more water and maintenance than most other plants. To conserve water, reduce the size of the lawn by including patios, decks, shrub beds and groundcovers in the landscape design.

Also consider the ease of watering turf areas. Areas that are long and narrow, small, or oddly shaped are difficult to water efficiently. Confine grass to blocky, squarish areas that are easier to maintain.





## Select Appropriate Plants

Select trees, shrubs and groundcovers that are adapted to your region's soil and climate. Texas is blessed with an abundance of beautiful native plants from which to choose. Most require less water and fertilizer and have fewer pest problems than non-adapted exotic plants that have been introduced into Texas landscapes.

Native Texas plants are becoming more available at retail nurseries and garden centers. Combining Texas natives with well-adapted exotic plants is one key to a beautiful, interesting landscape that conserves water.

When it comes to selecting a turfgrass, remember that the different varieties have very different water requirements. One of the best ways to conserve water is to select a grass that is adapted to your area of the state and that has a low demand for water.

Refer to the tables in this publication for landscape plants adapted to and recommended for your area. Your county Extension agent or local nurseryman also can make suggestions.

## Water Efficiently

Tremendous amounts of water are applied to lawns and gardens, but much of it is never absorbed by the plants and put to use. Some water runs off because it is applied too rapidly, and some water evaporates from exposed, unmulched soil; but, the greatest waste of water is applying too much too often.

When too much water is applied to the landscape it can leach nutrients deep into the soil away from plant roots, and possibly pollute groundwater. Runoff also can cause pollution by carrying fertilizers and pesticides into streams and lakes. These problems can be eliminated with proper watering techniques.

### Lawns

Most lawns receive twice as much water as they need. The key to watering lawns is to apply the water only when the grass needs it, but water thoroughly. This creates

a deep, well-rooted lawn that efficiently uses water stored in the soil.

To know when to water the lawn, simply observe the grass. Wilting and discoloration are signs of water stress. At the first sign of wilting, you have 24 to 48 hours to water before serious injury occurs. Apply 1 inch of water to the lawn as rapidly as possible without runoff.

### Trees and Shrubs

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered frequently until they are well rooted, which may take two growing seasons. Once established, plants should be watered less frequently so they will develop deep roots and be better able to withstand drought.

In the absence of rain, most trees and shrubs benefit from a once-a-month, thorough watering during the growing season. Normal lawn watering is not a substitute for thorough tree and shrub watering. The feeding root system of a tree or shrub is located within the top 12 inches of the soil and at the "dripline" of the plant. The dripline is the area directly below the outermost reaches of the branches. Apply water and fertilizer from just inside to a little beyond the dripline, not at the trunk. Simply lay a slowly running hose on the ground and move it around the dripline as each area becomes saturated to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. For large trees, this watering technique may take several hours.

### Irrigation Systems

The goal of any irrigation system is to give plants enough water without wasting it. By zoning an irrigation system, grass areas can be watered separately and more frequently than groundcovers, shrubs and trees. Sprinkler and drip irrigation can be used together to conserve water in the landscape.

**Sprinkler irrigation.** Most people water with sprinklers—either hose-end sprinklers or permanent, underground systems. A permanent sprinkler system can be more water-efficient than a hose-end sprinkler, but both systems require little maintenance and apply large volumes of water in a short

time. If you have a permanent sprinkler system, make sure the sprinkler heads are positioned properly to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways. Also adjust sprinkler heads so that they spray large droplets of water instead of a fog or fine mist, which evaporates quickly and may drift away with the wind. With either hose-end sprinklers or permanent systems, water between late evening and mid-morning so that water won't evaporate quickly and be wasted.

**Drip irrigation.** Drip irrigation is more efficient and more beneficial to plants than sprinkler irrigation. In areas of the state where water quality is poor (i.e., high salt content), drip irrigation is also safer for landscapes. Drip irrigation slowly applies water to soil. The water flows under low pressure through emitters, bubblers, or spray heads placed at each plant. There is little chance that water applied by drip irrigation will be wasted by evaporation or runoff. If you aren't familiar with drip irrigation, seek advice from professionals and experiment with it in small sections of the landscape. This will acquaint you with the benefits of drip irrigation.

## **Conserve Moisture with Mulches**

Mulch is a layer of nonliving material covering the soil surface around plants. Mulches can be organic materials such as pine bark, compost and woodchips; or inorganic materials such as lava rock, limestone or permeable plastic (not sheet plastic).

Use a mulch wherever possible. A good mulch conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil. Mulch also reduces weeds, prevents soil compaction, and keeps soil temperatures more moderate.

## **Use Good Maintenance Practices**

Mowing grass at the proper height conserves water because it encourages root systems to grow deeper and become more

water-efficient. Mow St. Augustinegrass and buffalograss at 3 inches, Bermudagrass at 1 inch, centipedegrass and Zoysiagrass at 2 inches.

Fertilizing the lawn at the proper time and using the proper amount can save time, effort and money by reducing mowing and watering. Fertilizers also can be a major source of pollution of streams and groundwater if too much is applied. Fertilize the lawn once in the spring and again in the fall. Use a slow-release form of nitrogen in the spring application and a quick-release form in the fall. Apply only 1 pound of actual nitrogen fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn at one time. With this schedule, no other fertilizer is needed to maintain most shrubs and trees in the lawn area.

Check your irrigation system periodically and maintain it so that it will operate efficiently. Properly time any insect and disease control measures, and eliminate weeds (they compete with other plants for water).

A well-designed landscape that uses Xeriscape principles can reduce maintenance by as much as 50 percent through reduced mowing, once-a-year mulching, the elimination of unadapted plants that require lots of water, and efficient irrigation.

## **Commit to Water Conservation**

Water must be a vital concern for everyone in Texas because it is a limited and fragile resource. Many people believe that watering landscapes is a nonessential luxury. In times of severe drought, rationing may limit the amount of water we can use for our lawns and gardens. Therefore, Texans have a special responsibility to conserve water and protect its quality. Xeriscaping conserves water in the landscape without sacrificing beauty and plant diversity. By following these guidelines, you can proudly create your own Xeriscape landscape.





1

*Planning and design* is the starting point for any water-wise landscape.



2

*Soil analysis* will determine what should be improved so that soil can hold moisture better.



4

*Appropriate plant selection* keeps the landscape more in tune with the natural environment. Native plants generally use less water than exotic plants, but there is room for both in a well-designed landscape.



5

*Efficient irrigation* can reduce your water bill for an average of 30%.



7

*Appropriate maintenance* keeps your landscape beautiful and conserves water. Mow, mulch, fertilize, irrigate and control weeds.



*Join the Xeriscape movement. Check with your local water agency for more information.*



mine whether the soil  
that it will absorb and



3

*Practical turf areas are neither too large (turfgrass requires more water than other plants) nor difficult to water efficiently.*



ave 30 to 50 percent of the  
ge home.



6

*Use mulches in flower and shrub beds to reduce water evaporation from the soil.*



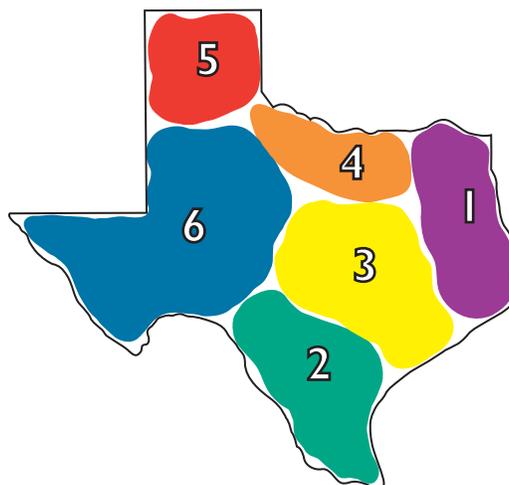
e preserves the landscape's  
water. Prune, weed, fertil-  
l pests properly.

*partment or county Extension agent for more information.*

# Outstanding Landscape Plants for Texas

## Plant Adaptation Map

- Region 1** - East Texas (Texarkana, Houston, Tyler, Beaumont, Nacogdoches)  
**Region 2** - South Texas (Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Laredo, Del Rio)  
**Region 3** - Central Texas (Austin, Waco, Bryan/College Station, San Antonio)  
**Region 4** - North Central Texas (Dallas, Ft. Worth, Denton, Wichita Falls)  
**Region 5** - Panhandle (Ardamillo)  
**Region 6** - West Texas (El Paso, Lubbock, San Angelo, Midland, Abilene)
- NOTE** - Plants with number 7 are adaptable to most areas of Texas.



★ Texas native

## Turfgrasses

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Notes
Bermudagrass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	7	Good drought tolerance; produces dense turf; poor shade tolerance; plant seed or sod
★ Buffalograss	<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	3,4,5,6	Excellent drought tolerance; produces thin turf; poor shade tolerance; plant seed or sod
Carpetgrass	<i>Axonopus affinis</i>	1	Adapted to moist sites; tolerates partial shade; many seedheads; thin turf; plant seed
Centipedegrass	<i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i>	1	Low maintenance; tolerates partial shade; tolerates drought; plant seed or sod
St. Augustinegrass	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	1,2,3,4	Produces dense turf; good shade tolerance; poor drought tolerance; plant sod
Tall fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	4,5	Under irrigation, remains green year-round; good shade tolerance; poor drought tolerance; plant seed
Zoysiagrass	<i>Zoysia</i> spp.	7	Produces dense turf; good shade tolerance; good drought tolerance; plant sod

## Vines

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Notes
Boston ivy	<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	7	Sun/shade	Deciduous; fall color; clings to walls
Bougainvillea	<i>Bougainvillea</i> sp.	2	Sun	Evergreen; many flower colors; plant outdoors in extreme southern Texas only or provide winter protection
Carolina jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	1,2,3,4	Sun/shade	Evergreen; yellow spring flowers
Clematis	<i>Clematis</i> sp.	5	Shade	Beautiful blooms; deciduous vines
Confederate jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	1,2,3,4	Sun/shade	Evergreen; fragrant white spring flowers
★ Coral honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	7	Sun	Coral flower in summer
Coralvine	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Pink flowers in late summer and fall
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	7	Shade	Evergreen; green or variegated foliage; loves shade
Fig ivy	<i>Ficus pumila (repens)</i>	1,2,3,4	Sun/shade	Evergreen; clings to walls

## Vines (continued)

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Notes
★ Improved trumpet vine	<i>Clematis radicans</i>	7	Sun/shade	Orange flowers in summer and fall
Lady Banksia	<i>Rosa banksia</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Spring flowers in yellow or white
Mermaid rose	<i>Rosa x bracteata</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Fragrant, pale yellow flower; vigorous climber; pest-resistant
Rosa x fortuniana	<i>Rosa x fortuniana</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Fragrant, white flowers; vigorous climber; pest-resistant
Silverlace vine	<i>Polygonum aubertii</i>	3,4,5,6	Sun/shade	Fluffy masses of white flowers
★ Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	7	Sun/shade	Clings to walls; fall color
Wisteria	<i>Wisteria</i> sp.	7	Sun/shade	Blue clusters of flowers in spring

## Groundcovers

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Notes
Ajuga	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	7	Shade	Variety of foliage colors and blue flowers; requires well-drained soil
Asiatic jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	Evergreen; green or variegated foliage
Confederate jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	1,2,3,4	Sun/shade	Evergreen; fragrant, white spring flowers
English ivy	<i>Hedera Helix</i>	7	Shade	Evergreen; green or variegated foliage
Liriope	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	7	Sun/shade	Evergreen; grass-like foliage; purple blooms; varieties: big blue, gigantic
Monkey grass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	7	Sun/shade	Evergreen, grass-like foliage; dwarf and standard varieties
Prostrate rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	2	Sun	Grayish-green, fragrant foliage; light blue flowers
Santolina	<i>Santolina</i> sp.	3,4,5,6	Sun	Species with green or silver foliage
Trailing juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	3,4,5,6	Sun	Several varieties available; not suitable for wet, humid areas
Vinca	<i>Vinca major</i>	7	Shade	Blue flowers and dark green foliage

## Perennials

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Flower color	Flowering season	Height
★ Autumn sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>	2,3,4,6	Sun	White, red, pink, salmon	Spring to fall	2-3 ft.
★ Baby sun/sunray coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	7	Sun	Yellow, orange	Late spring, summer	1 ft.
Bearded iris	<i>Iris xiphoides</i>	7	Sun/shade	Many	Spring	1-3 ft.
Blue plumbago	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	1,2,3	Sun/shade	Blue, white	Summer, fall	3 ft.
Bouncing bet	<i>Sapinara officinalis</i>	7	Sun/shade	Pink	Summer	1-2 ft.
Cigar plant	<i>Cuphea micropetala</i>	1,2,3	Sun/shade	Red/yellow	Summer, fall	3-4 ft.
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> sp.	7	Sun	Many	Spring, summer	1-3 ft.

## Perennials (continued)

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Flower color	Flowering season	Height
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	1,2,3	Sun	Reddish-orange	Summer, fall	3-5 ft.
Garden canna	<i>Canna x generalis</i>	7	Sun/shade	Yellow, red, pink, salmon	Summer	2-4 ft.
Goldsturm rudbeckia	<i>Rudbeckia x goldsturm</i>	7	Sun	Yellow	Summer	2 ft.
★ Hinckley's columbine	<i>Aquilegia hinckleyana</i>	2,3,5	Shade	Yellow	Spring	18 in.
★ Indian blanket	<i>Gaillardia</i> sp.	7	Sun	Reddish-yellow	Spring to fall	18 in.
★ Lantana	<i>Lantana</i> sp.	1,2,3,6	Sun	Many	Spring to fall	1-2 ft.
Lousiana iris	<i>Iris fulva x Iris giganticaerulea x Iris foliosa</i>	7	Sun/shade	Many	Spring	3 ft.
★ Mealy cup sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Blue, white, purple	Spring, summer, fall	3 ft.
Mexican oregano	<i>Poliomenantha longiflora</i>	1,2,3,6	Sun	Pink	Summer	1-2 ft.
Mexican sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	2,3	Sun	Blue	Spring to fall	3-4 ft.
★ Moonbeam/ Zagreb coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	7	Sun	Yellow, orange	Late spring, summer	2-3 ft.
★ Pavonia	<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>	1,2,3	Sun/shade	Pink	Spring to fall	3-4 ft.
★ Perennial verbena	<i>Verbena</i> sp.	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Many	Spring to fall	6 in.-1 ft.
★ Pink rain lily	<i>Zephyranthes grandiflora</i>	7	Sun/shade	Pink	Summer	1 ft.
★ Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	7	Sun	Purple	Spring to fall	18 in.
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	Blue	Summer, fall	1-4 ft.
Society garlic	<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	7	Sun/shade	Lavender	Spring to fall	18 in.
Sweet violet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	7	Shade	Purple	Winter, spring	6-8 in.
★ White rain lily	<i>Zephyranthes candida</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	White	Summer	1 ft.

## Ornamental grasses

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Flowering season	Height
★ Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	7	Sun	Summer, fall	3-4 ft.
Fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum ruppelii</i>	7	Sun	Summer	3 ft.
★ Muhly grass	<i>Muehlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	2,3,4,6	Sun	Summer	3 ft.
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	7	Sun	Summer, fall	7 ft.
★ Purple autumn grass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	7	Sun	Summer	3-4 ft.
Sideoats gramma	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	7	Sun	Summer	2-3 ft.

## Shrubs

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Notes
<b>Dwarf shrubs (1 to 3 feet tall)</b>				
Dwarf burford holly	<i>Ilex cornuta rotunda burfordii</i>	7	Sun/shade	Glossy evergreen foliage
Dwarf Chinese holly	<i>Ilex cornuta rotunda</i>	7	Sun/shade	Glossy evergreen foliage
Dwarf pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira wheeleri</i>	1,2,3	Sun/shade	Small, round evergreen
★ Dwarf yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria nana</i>	7	Sun/shade	Glossy evergreen foliage
Nandina: harbour dwarf, gulf stream, nana	<i>Nandina</i> spp.	7	Sun/shade	Reddish evergreen foliage
★ Red yucca	<i>Hesperaloe parvifolia</i>	7	Sun	Red flowers on tall spikes
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Fragrant bluish-green foliage; blue flowers; herb
<b>Small shrubs (3 to 5 feet tall)</b>				
Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea</i>	1,3,4,5,6	Sun	Red evergreen foliage
Bridal wreath spirea	<i>Spirea cantoniensis (S. reevesiana)</i>	7	Sun/shade	Sprawling; fern-like; white spring blooms
China rose	<i>Rosa chinensis</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Hardy; long-blooming; pest-resistant; varieties: Old Blush (pink) and Cramiosi Superior (red)
Dwarf burford holly	<i>Ilex cornuta rotunda burfordii</i>	7	Sun/shade	Glossy evergreen foliage
★ Dwarf palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	Trunkless, bushy palm
Flowering quince	<i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	7	Sun	Deciduous shrub; spring blooming (red, pink, white or orange)
Glossy abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	7	Sun/shade	Bronze evergreen foliage and white flowers
Grayleaf cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster glaucophylla</i>	1,3,4,5,6	Sun/shade	Sprawling evergreen shrub; dusty gray foliage
Indian hawthorne	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>	7	Sun/shade	Spring flowering; blue berries in fall; evergreen
Japanese boxwood	<i>Buxus japonica</i>	7	Sun/shade	Evergreen foliage
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	1,3,4,5,6	Sun	Tough, evergreen shrub; many varieties available
Nandina compact	<i>Nandina domestica compacta</i>	7	Sun/shade	Reddish evergreen foliage and red fall berries
Tea rose	<i>Rosa adonata</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Hardy; long blooming; pest-resistant; excellent varieties: Mrs. B.R. Cant (rose), Mrs. Dudley Cross (yellow) and Duchesse de Brandant (pink)
<b>Medium shrubs (6 to 9 feet tall)</b>				
★ Agarita	<i>Mahonia trifoliata</i>	2,3,4,6	Sun	Holly-like evergreen foliage; yellow spring flowers; red edible berries
Althea	<i>Hibiscus syriacas</i>	7	Sun	Upright; deciduous; many colors; summer blooming
Burford holly	<i>Ilex cornuta burfordii</i>	7	E	Glossy evergreen foliage
★ Central Texas sage	<i>Leucophyllum</i> sp.	2,3,4,6	Sun	Dusty gray evergreen foliage; blooms throughout summer
Chinese horned holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	7	Sun/shade	Glossy evergreen foliage
Eleagnus	<i>Eleagnus fruitlandi</i>	7	Sun	Evergreen with grayish-green foliage
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia intermedia spectabilis</i>	1,3,4,5,6	Sun/shade	Yellow spring flowers
Fraser photinia	<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	7	Sun/shade	Red new foliage; evergreen

## Shrubs (continued)

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Exposure	Notes
Glossy abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	7	Sun/shade	Bronze evergreen foliage; white or pink flowers
Green pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	Large evergreen shrub
Indian hawthorne	<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>	7	Sun/shade	Spring flowering; blue berries in fall; evergreen
Italian jasmine	<i>Jasminum humile</i>	7	Sun	Sprawling evergreen; yellow summer flowers
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	1,3,4,5,6	Sun	Tough evergreen; many varieties
Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	7	Sun/shade	Reddish evergreen foliage; red fall berries
Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Large, upright shrub; orange blooms; edible fruit; dwarf variety: Chico
Variiegated pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira variegata</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	Green/white variegated evergreen shrub
Winter honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	7	Sun/shade	Fragrant clusters of white flowers in winter

### Large shrubs (10 to 25 feet tall)

★ American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	1	Sun	Tree-form holly; evergreen foliage; red berries
Arizona cypress	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	1,3,4,5,6	Sun	Evergreen for specimen and windbreak plantings
California fan palm	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	1,2,3	Sun	Tree-like palm
★ Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun/shade	Tree-like evergreen shrub
Chinese photinia	<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	1,3,4,5,6	Sun/shade	Evergreen; red spring foliage; white spring blooms
Crape myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	7	Sun	Shrubby to tree-like; summer blooming; many flower colors available
Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	5	Sun	Deciduous blooming shrub; adapted to alkaline soil
Mock orange	<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	1,5	Sun	Fragrant white blooms in late spring
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Evergreen foliage; summer blooming; many colors available
★ Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	1,2,3,4	Sun	Deciduous holly; red to orange berries persist through early winter
Russian olive	<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	4,5,6	Sun/shade	Gray foliage; yellow flowers; evergreen for windbreak plantings
★ Texas mountain laurel	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	2,3,6	Sun/shade	Tree-like evergreen shrub; purple spring flowers
★ Texas palmetto	<i>Sabal texana</i>	1,2,3,6	Sun	Tall, native Texas palm
★ Texas persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>	2,3,6	Sun	Tree-like; light gray trunk; fruit edible by animals
Vitex	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	7	Sun	Tree-like; flowers blue or white; summer blooming
Washington hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	5	Sun	Maple-shaped leaves; white flowers; red berries
Windmill palm	<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Sun	Tree-like; fibrous bark
★ Yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	7	Sun/shade	Upright evergreen, spineless holly; red to orange berries

## Trees

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Notes
<b>Small trees (20 to 35 feet tall)</b>			
American plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	5	White blooms in spring; sour fruit good for jelly
Aristocrat pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	1,3,4,5,6	Spring flowers; fall color
Bradford pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford'	1,3,4,5,6	Spring flowers; fall color
★ Canaert redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	7	Evergreen for specimen or windbreak
Chinese pistache	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	7	Spreading canopy; fall color
Crabapple	<i>Mallus</i> sp.	1,3,4,5,6	Spring flowering tree; many varieties
★ Desert willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	2,3,4,5,6	Snapdragon-like flowers in summer; willow-like foliage
★ Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	1	Graceful tree; large spring blooms of white and pink
Eldarica pine	<i>Pinus eldarica</i>	2,3,4,6	Best pine for alkaline soils; Christmas-tree shaped
Fan d'Arc osage orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i> 'Fan d'Arc'	7	Improved fruitless selection
★ Honey mesquite	<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	2,3,4,6	Lacy spreading form
Japanese black pine	<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	7	Rounded small tree; adapted to alkaline soils
Japanese persimmon	<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	7	Edible showy fruit; glossy green foliage
★ Mexican plum	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	7	Fragrant spring flowers; attractive trunk
Nanking cherry	<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	5	Tough, fruiting, shrubby tree
Panicked golden raintree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	3,4,5,6	Showy flowers and seed pods
Pink lady euonymus	<i>Euonymus bungeanus</i>	5	Alkaline-tolerant; deciduous; light green foliage; showy seeds in fall
★ Redbud	<i>Cercis</i> sp.	7	Spring blooming; excellent varieties: Oklahoma and Forest Pansy
★ Slash pine	<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	1	Evergreen pine
★ Soapberry	<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	7	Fall color
★ Texas ebony	<i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i>	2	Airy foliage and flowers
★ Wild olive	<i>Corida boissieri</i>	2	White flowers and bold foliage
<b>Large trees (above 35 feet tall)</b>			
Austrian black pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	5	Adapted to wind and cold
★ Bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Deciduous conifer; fine-textured foliage; fall color
★ Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	1,5	Good tree but tends to be messy
Blue spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Glauca'	5	Grayish-blue needles
★ Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	7	Bold foliage; huge acorns
★ Cedar elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	7	Upright growth habit; good street tree
★ Chinquapin oak	<i>Quercus mehlenbergii</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Round-topped tree; bold foliage
Deodar cedar	<i>Cedrus deodora</i>	7	Bluish-green conifer
★ Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	5	Variety 'Shademaster' particularly recommended for area 5
Honey locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	2,3,4,5,6	Thornless varieties available
Kentucky coffee tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	5	Upright tree; fine-textured foliage
Lace bark elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	7	Textured bark; spreading shade tree
★ Live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	1,2,3,4,6	Evergreen shade tree
★ Loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	1	Evergreen pine

## Trees (continued)

Common name	Scientific name	Best adapted for	Note
★ Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	7	State tree of Texas; edible nuts
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	5	Bushy, attractive tree
★ Shumard oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	1,2,3,4,5	Fall color
★ Southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	1	Bold evergreen tree; large white blooms throughout summer
★ Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	1	Upright growth habit; fall color
★ Texas red oak	<i>Quercus texana</i>	7	Fall color
★ Water oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	1	Holds foliage well into winter



Produced by AgriLife Communications and Marketing, The Texas A&M University System

Extension publications can be found on the Web at: <http://AgriLifeBookstore.org>.

Visit Texas AgriLife Extension Service at <http://AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu>.

*Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.*

---

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Edward G. Smith, Director, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System.

7.5M, Revision

\$4.00 per copy