

## **Tree Selection Chart For Central Texas**

NAME	ТҮРЕ	GROWTH	HEIGHT	SPREAD	Near Utility LINES	WATER*	BENEFITS	CONCERNS	COMMENTS
American Smoke Tree	Deciduous	Slow	25'	20'	Yes	L-M	Color, Wildlife	None	High drought, heat and cold tolerance.
Anacacho Orchid	Deciduous	Moderate	15'	10'	Yes	VL	Attractive, Aromatic Flowers	None	Very attractive small tree that will flower in full or part sun.
Anaqua	Evergreen	Slow	30'	45'	No	М	Attractive, Showy Blooms	Susceptible To Freeze Damage	Deep shade; spring blooms look like the tree is covered with snow. Also called Sand Paper Tree.
Bald Cypress	Deciduous	Moderate	50'+	25'-50'	No	L	Wildlife, Fall Color	Surface Roots	Well-adapted to many soil combinations and moisture. Handles wet areas well.
Bigtooth Maple	Deciduous	Moderate	25'-50'	25'-35'	No	VL	Fall Color	None	Native to Hill Country; good for well-drained limestone soils. Excellent fall color. Hard to find.
Bur Oak	Deciduous	Rapid	50'+	50' +	No	VL	Unique Leaves and Acorns	None	Excellent tree; not utilized enough. Plant with plenty of room!
Carolina Buckthorn	Deciduous	Slow	15'	15'	Yes	L	Wildlife, Fall Color, Fruit	None	Attractive fall color and fruit.
Carolina Cherry Laurel	Evergreen	Moderate	25'-30'	25'	No	М	Wildlife, Flower	None	Makes a good screening hedge. Requires good drainage.
Cedar Elm	Deciduous	Slow	25'-50'	25'-35'	No	VL	Wildlife, Fall Color	Pollen Drop	Well-adapted shade tree for Austin. Some problems with aphids & powdery mildew.
Chinkapin Oak	Deciduous	Moderate	50'+	25'-50'	No	L	Wildlife	None	Good for limestone soils. Attractive, light-colored bark.
Desert Willow	Deciduous	Rapid	25'	25'	Yes	VL	Wildlife, Flower	None	Showy flowers through summer. Needs good drainage.
Eastern Red Cedar	Evergreen	Rapid	45'	25'	No	L	Wildlife, Aromatic Wood	None	Fast growing, adaptable evergreen for screening & shade.
Escarpment Black Cherry	Deciduous	Moderate	25'-50'	25'	No	L	Wildlife, Flower, Fruit	None	Attractive, upright tree with showy fall color & interesting bark. Not for heavy, clay soils.
Escarpment Live Oak	Evergreen	Moderate	25'-50'	50' +	No	L	Wildlife	Susceptible To Oak Wilt	Limit use to areas with few live oaks. Allow plenty of room. Oak Wilt disease a problem.
Eve's Necklace	Deciduous	Moderate	25'	25'	Yes	VL	Flower, Fruit	None	Attractive flower in spring and fruit through fall and winter. Tolerates light, wet soils.
Gum Bumelia	Evergreen	Moderate	45'	50'	No	L-M	Wildlife, Fragrant Flowers	Sucker Growth, Small Thorns	Blue to black berries, edible, ripen in fall. Highly adaptable to soil types, drought resistant.
Lacey Oak	Deciduous	Slow	20'-30'	25'	No	VL	Texture, Color	None	Native oak unusual for its bluish foliage. Resistant to Oak Wilt disease.
Mesquite	Deciduous	Slow	25'-35'	25'-35'	No	L	Wildlife, Flower	Thorns	Extremely drought tolerant with desirable light, filtered shade. Thornless varieties available.
Mexican Buckeye	Deciduous	Moderate	15'-20'	15'-20'	Yes	L	Wildlife, Bark Texture/Color	None	Good as a multi-stemmed specimen.
Mexican Plum	Deciduous	Moderate	25'	25'	Yes	L	Wildlife, Flower, Fall Color, Bark	None	Bright white flowers and edible fruit. May need protection from winter winds.
Pecan	Deciduous	Slow	50'+	50' +	No	L	Fruit, Wildlife, Fall & Winter Color	None	State Tree of Texas. Plant with plenty of room! Grows slowly until well-established.
Possumhaw Holly	Deciduous	Moderate	15'-20'	15'-20'	Yes	L-M	Wildlife, Fall Color	None	Striking native plant. Bright red berries in late fall and winter.
Texas Ash	Deciduous	Rapid	50'	30'	No	VL	Wildlife, Fall Color	None	A very attractive alternative to Arizona Ash. Darker leaf color & denser, more upright growth pattern.
Texas Mountain Laurel	Evergreen	Slow	15'-20'	12'-15'	Yes	VL	Wildlife, Flower	Poisonous Seeds	Excellent drought-tolerant tree. Outstanding fragrant spring blooms. Needs good drainage.
Texas Persimmon	Deciduous	Slow	25'	25'	Yes	VL	Color, Wildlife, Bark Texture	None	Drought-tolerant native with attractive exfoliating bark. Small, edible black fruit.
Texas Pistache	Evergreen	Moderate	20'-30'	20'	No	L	Attractive To Birds, Deer Resistant	None	Glossy foliage, small, white flower clusters, maintains shrub-like shape.
Texas Redbud	Deciduous	Moderate	15'-20'	15'-20'	Yes	L	Flower, Fall Color	None	Several redbuds available. "Texensis" best for our area. Eastern variety does poorly.
Texas Red Oak	Deciduous	Moderate	25'-50'	25'	No	L	Wildlife, Bark, Fall Color/Acorns	Susceptible To Oak Wilt	Several red oaks available. "Texana" best for our area. Known as Quercus shumardii var. texana.
Western Soapberry	Deciduous	Moderate	25'-30'	25'-30'	No	L	Fall Color	Sucker Growth	Large amber berries fall through winter.
Yaupon Holly	Evergreen	Moderate	25'	25'	Yes	L-M	Wildlife, Fruit	None	Females hold bright red berries through winter. Very hardy. Bushy unless pruned.

**VL** - Very Low (Water occasionally during very dry conditions).

L - Low (Water thoroughly ever 3-4 weeks if no rainfall). **M** - Medium (Water thoroughly every 2-3 weeks if no rainfall).

**H** – High (Water thoroughly every 5-7 days if no rainfall).

\*Water guidelines are for established trees. Freshly planted trees require 15–20 gallons of water every 7-10 days. See the 'Planting Your Tree' section in this guide for more information on watering your new tree.

# **Planting Your Tree**

Place bottom of rootball on solid soil.

Make hole 2-3 times wider than rootball.

with or slightly

1. Select the right tree for the right place. Proper tree 6. For balled and burlapped trees, rest the rootball in planting begins with good planning. Determine your planting goals and match the mature size, soil and moisture requirements of your trees to the site. (Refer to the *Tree* Selection Chart.)

2. Mark out a planting area 2-5 times wider than the rootball diameter (wider is better). Loosen this area to about an 8-inch depth. This will enable your tree to extend a dense mat of tiny roots well out into the soil in the first 1–10 weeks in the ground.

3. In the center of the planting area, dig a hole at least 2-3 times the diameter of the rootball and no deeper than

the depth of soil in the rootball. The bottom of the ball should rest on solid undisturbed soil when finished, the soil at the base of the tree should be as high on the trunk as it was in the container.

in circle

4. Make sure the sides of the hole are rough and uneven. In very hard soils, a rough edged hole may help allow new roots to grow out into the surrounding soil.

5. Place the tree in the hole. If the tree is in a container, pull the container away from the rootball. Don't pull the tree out by its trunk. Place the rootball in the center of the hole. Adjust the tree so it sits straight and at the proper level. Stand back and look at the tree now before you put the soil back into the hole. You can make careful adjustments to the hole at this point without seriously harming the rootball.

the center of the hole. Reshape the hole so the tree will be straight and at the proper level. After adjusting the pull the burlap and any other material

3-4 feet from

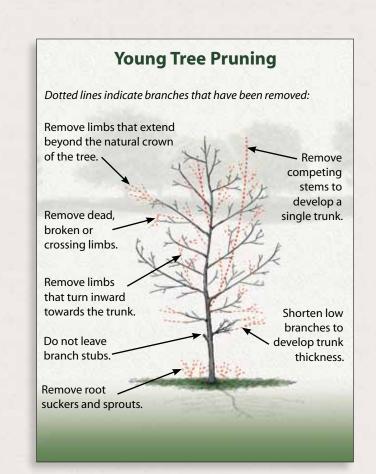
away from the sides and top of the rootball. Gently remove the material from the hole.

7. Backfill with original soil. Mixing fertilizer, compost, or other material with the soil is not recommended.

**8.** Fill until the hole is half full. Flood the hole with a slow hose or tamp gently with your foot to firm the soil. Repeat until the hole is full. Press only firm enough to hold the tree upright. The best soil for root growth has spaces for both air and water. Large air pockets can cause problems.

9. Construct a small dam or berm three feet in diameter around the tree. This dam will help hold water until it soaks into the soil, rather than it running off across the surface.

10. Cover the entire loosened area of soil, including the berm, with 3-4 inches of mulch. For example, you can use shredded wood or bark, compost, or dry leaves. Mulch will slow water loss, reduce weeds and grasses, moderate soil temperature and provide small amounts of nutrients.



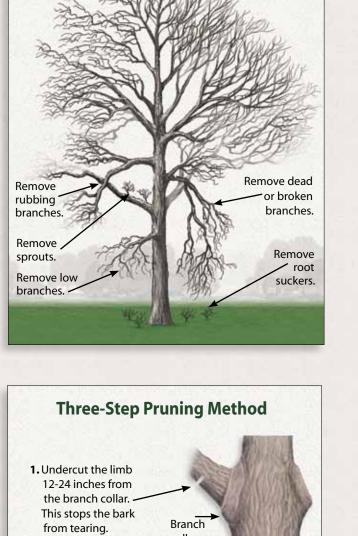
### **Care Of Your Tree**

Do not add fertilizer at planting. Have your soil analyzed to consider amending soil. Fertilizer may injure the tree. Half an inch of compost under the canopy is recommended.

Remember: a good mulch layer will provide a natural source of nutrients to the tree and it will help cool the soil and conserve moisture. Maintain a 3-4 inch mulch layer within the planting area. Check the thickness of your mulch mid-summer and renew it as needed. Keep mulch away from the base of the trunk to avoid potential rotting of the bark.

Regular watering is the single most important factor in the success of your new tree. New trees need about one inch of water per week for about two years. This is true for all trees, even though they may be native or drought tolerant. Be careful not to drown the roots; they need air as well as water to grow.

Watering slowly by hand gives you a great opportunity to monitor your trees for problems such as disease, insects and broken or dead limbs. You will be amazed at how well your trees will respond to your care.



2. Make the second cut

from the top all the

way through the

branch, 2-3 inches

above the first cut.

3. The final cut should be

just beyond the branch

into it. Support the stub

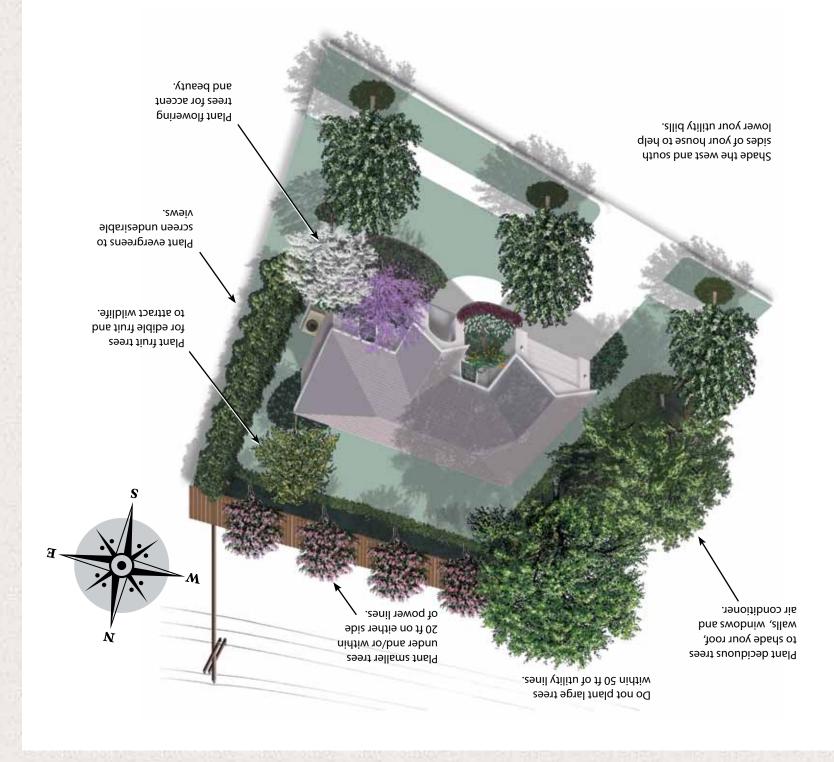
so that it does not tear

the bark. -

collar, without cutting

**Mature Tree Pruning** 





with utility lines or equipment. should not be planted where they will eventually interfere your tree(s) adequate room to grow. Trees and shrubs height and spread of your tree(s). Make sure you give Consult the Tree Selection Chart to determine the mature Planting Site Selection

will come out and mark the ground where all of your

You Dig (8-1-1) three days before you plan to dig. They

underground utilities are located.

www.austintexas.gov/parks/forestry.htm Austin Urban Forestry Program

www.greenbuilding.austinenergy.com Green Building Program

> http://txforestservice.tamu.edu Texas Forest Service

www.austinenergy.com/go/trees

Managing Trees Near Power Lines www.treefolks.org Fruit & Nut Tree Guide for Central Texas

www.treefolks.org

bnsleinteaus/90v/urbanheatisland City of Austin Urban Heat Island Mitigation Program

> mw.austintexas.gov/trees/programs.htm City of Austin Tree Programs

> > www.austintexas.gov/growgreen City of Austin Grow Green Program Resources

foldout can also be used as a wall poster. Please share or recycle the guide when you

and small trees, and their characteristics and growing needs. The tree illustration

or buried utility locations. Play it safe and call Dial Before ways, building outlines, compass directions and overhead showing existing trees and landscape, sidewalks, drive-Plan before you plant. Make a sketch of your property Where to Plant the trees are subjected to our hot, dry summers.

roots of your new tree(s) to become established before March 31st). Planting in the cool, wet season allows the Central Texas planting season (October 1st through Plant your new tree(s) as early as possible during the When to Plant

less water to get established than older trees. less expensive to purchase younger trees, they require new tree and two to three times as wide. Besides being You must dig no deeper than the rootball depth of your planting hole you are willing to dig before you buy a tree. ornamental purposes. Also, consider the size of the We recommend planting only native trees for shade and Tree Growing Guide can help you decide what to plant. your yard. The tree listings and illustrations in the Native There are many kinds of trees available for planting in

What to Plant

are finished with it. tree planting and care in Central Texas. It provides a selection of native large THIS GUIDE was created to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about

## Why Native?

Central Texas native trees have adapted to this climate over thousands of years and are better able to withstand extreme weather events. Native trees generally require less watering, are more resistant to insect and disease attack, and provide superior native wildlife habitat. There is also a link to our Central Texas natural heritage.

#### Why We Plant Trees

#### **Energy Conservation**

Properly placed shade trees can reduce home energy consumption, by providing shade for roofs, walls and air conditioners. Large deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home shade the roof and walls in the summer and help conserve energy. In the winter when they drop their leaves they allow the sunlight through to warm your home. Planting evergreens on the north side of your home can help you save energy too and keep your home warmer by blocking cold, northerly winter winds.

#### **Property Value**

Mature trees beautify and help reduce crime in neighborhoods. They can add a significant percentage to the value of a typical Austin home.

#### **Climate Protection and Air Quality**

Through the shading of homes, offices, air conditioning units, and by lowering localized temperatures through evapotranspiration (where the air is cooled by the release of moisture from the surface of leaves), the amount of related energy is reduced including its associated air pollution and greenhouse gases. Trees don't just help us avoid making more air pollution; they actively absorb it. They sequester carbon dioxide, remove particulates and disrupt ozone particles.

#### **Urban Heat Island Mitigation**

Cities often experience higher temperatures than the surrounding countryside. This urban heat island effect is reduced by planting trees that shade hard surfaces like roads and sidewalks. Trees also literally cool the air around them through the natural process of evapotranspiration. Whether alone or together evapotranspiration and shading can cool your yard, your street and ultimately the city.

#### **Water and Land Conservation**

Trees and other landscape plants help slow surface water runoff and reduce soil erosion. The soil absorbs more rainwater, so less potable water is needed on your landscape.

#### **Wildlife Habitat**

Trees provide food, nesting sites and protection to a wide variety of birds and animals.



Austin Energy recognizes the intrinsic value of trees and works to maintain the health of the urban forest. To learn more, call 512- 494-9400 or visit www.austinenergy.com.



The Austin Climate Protection Program is dedicated to making Austin the leading city in the nation in the fight against climate change. To learn more, visit



TreeFolks is a non-profit organization dedicated to growing the urban forest of Central Texas through tree planting, education, and community partnerships. Our award winning programs have planted nearly 200,000 trees in city parks, preserves, schools and community gardens. To learn more visit www.treefolks.org or call 512-443-5323

# Tree Growing Guide FOR CENTRAL TEXAS



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