

## Design

**Background:** Plant trees on the side or back of your home to provide a backdrop for your home.

**Accents:** Small flowering trees can create focal points and balance in your garden.

**Variety:** Pests and disease are more likely when one type of tree is planted too heavily in an area. Try to provide a diversity of trees (both in your yard and within your neighborhood) to help minimize the spread of pests and disease and to create a variety of texture, height and color.

## Things to Avoid

- Enclosing the root zone in concrete
- Planting tall trees under utility lines
- Tangling with wires or eaves
- Shading gardens
- Covering traffic signs or blocking views at corners
- Interfering with outdoor lighting
- Covering chimneys
- Encroaching on your neighbor
- Blocking windows

## Selection

When buying, select trees with a single, dominant trunk and full, even canopy. Pick a tree that fits the area you've selected by following the Where to Plant guidelines.

## When to Plant

NOW! The best time to plant a tree was 50 years ago – the next best time is now. Trees grown in containers can be planted at any time, but November through March is best in Midland.

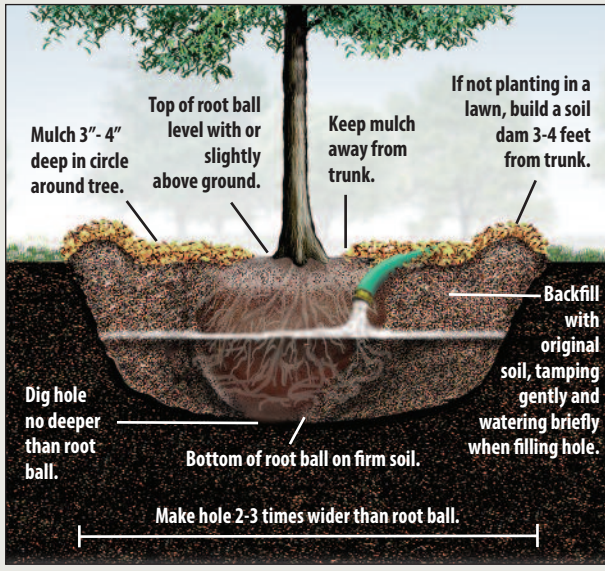
## How to Plant

### Things to Have Before Planting

- Your tree
- A stick
- Cardboard or tarp to put dirt on
- A shovel, rake, and pick ax (if needed)
- A bag of mulch (3 cubic feet)
- A bag or two of topsoil (for rocky soils)
- A hose that will reach the tree

**Remove the Container:** Remove or cut away the container just before the tree is put in the hole. Try to move the tree by the root ball instead of the trunk. Minimize the time the roots are exposed to the air.

**Plant It:** Set the root ball in the hole and adjust it until the "best" side of the tree faces the direction you want and the root flare (where the trunk meets the root ball) is level with, or slightly above, the natural soil grade. A stick or shovel handle laid across the hole will tell if the root ball is high or low.



**Fill The Hole:** Use the pile of dirt to fill in around the root ball. If the dirt pile is full of rocks, rake the larger rocks out, break up any chunks and mix this with good topsoil. Do not add amendments such as peat moss or compost.

**Water In:** When the hole is 2/3 full, fill it with water and mix the mud with your shovel to settle the soil and remove any pockets of air. Finish backfilling until the top of the root ball (except the flare) is covered with about an inch or so of soil.

**Mulch:** Put a 3 or 4 inch layer of bark, leaves, or straw around the tree, keeping it 6" away from the trunk. Mulch helps to keep weeds and grass out, retains moisture, and moderates soil temperature.

## Caring for Your Tree

**Water:** Deep watering is important. Keep the hose handy and water the root zone of your tree twice per week during the growing season, and once per week during winter, for the first two years. Be careful not to drown the roots—they need air as well as water to grow.

**Pruning:** Before planting, take care to prune off all dead, damaged, or rubbing branches. Also, prune to develop a single primary trunk, and try to remove limbs that grow off of that trunk at a narrow angle (the strongest branches grow at a right-angle from the trunk). A tree pruning diagram is available for download at [www.keepmidlandbeautiful.com/tree-pruning](http://www.keepmidlandbeautiful.com/tree-pruning)

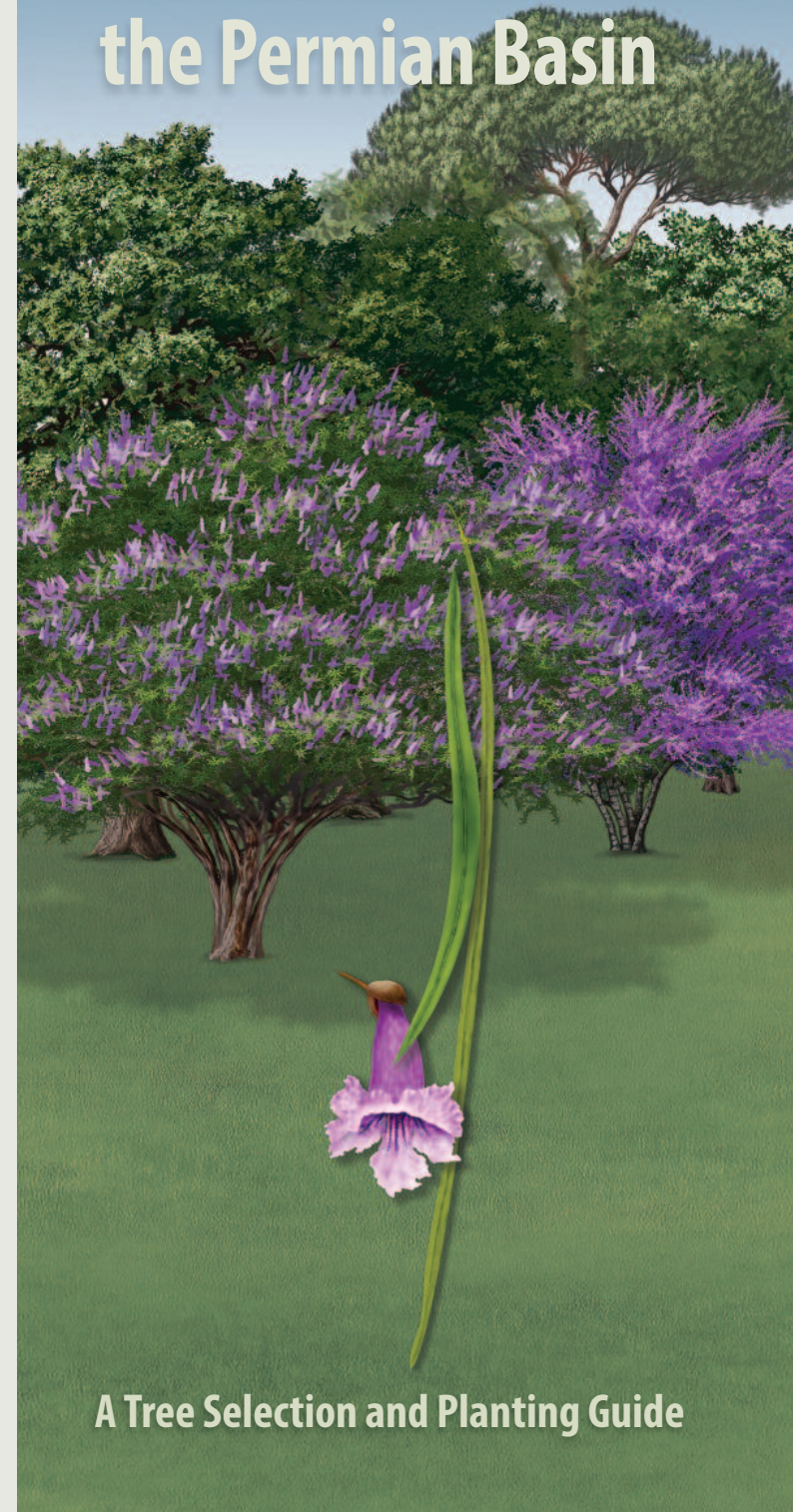
### Generous Support Provided By:

- Permian Basin Master Gardeners
- Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service
- City of Midland
- Oncor Electric Delivery
- Mark Walter
- Tree Loving Care
- Sharla & Bart Hotchkiss
- Mask Landscape Architecture
- Texas A&M Forest Service



(Continued on back side)

# Tree Guide for the Permian Basin



## A Tree Selection and Planting Guide

## Tree Guide for the Permian Basin

KNOWN AS THE "LAND OF THE HIGH SKY", the Llano Estacado is a seemingly unending landscape of short prairie grasses and blue sky.

As this landscape was settled, newcomers began planting trees to provide shade, clean air, clean water and psychological well-being for the community. Many species of trees were planted, and our representative list showcases a selection that will withstand our soil conditions and semi-arid climate.

Midland TreeKeepers is a sub-committee of Keep Midland Beautiful, who collaborates with the Texas A&M Forest Service and City of Midland Parks and Recreation Division to promote tree planting and care within the Permian Basin. We are a group of volunteers who are passionate about the urban forest and creating a sustainable tree canopy that will benefit future generations.

You can make a positive impact on our community by planting a tree at your home, or by becoming a Midland TreeKeepers volunteer. Visit our Facebook page: [facebook.com/midlandtreekeepers](https://www.facebook.com/midlandtreekeepers) to learn more.

This guide was created to help you plan for, purchase, plant, and care for trees anywhere in the Permian Basin. Additional trees and information can be found on the Midland TreeKeepers section of [www.keepmidlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepmidlandbeautiful.org).



## Why Plant?

**Shade and Cooling:** A well-placed shade tree can reduce your roof and wall temperature by 20 degrees and help you save over 10% on your electrical bill.

**Property Value:** Trees help to establish your neighborhood and can add value to your home.

**Clean the Air:** Trees help clean the air by removing particulates (such as dust), absorbing carbon dioxide, and producing oxygen.

**Wildlife:** Trees provide food, nesting sites and protection for birds and mammals.

**Enjoyment:** Trees are an important part of the landscape and can provide positive visual, physical, and psychological effects.

## Where to Plant

**Call Before You Dig:** Dial 811 or visit [www.Texas811.org](http://www.Texas811.org) to have underground utilities located before any digging over 16" in depth. It's the law!

**Look Up:** Consider the mature size of the tree, and be conscious of overhead lines in alleys or along property boundaries, and service lines coming into the home.

**Shade:** Consider planting deciduous trees along the south and west of the home to provide shade in the summer, but allow warming sun to come in during the winter. Also, planting trees to shade your air conditioning unit can help keep it cool and increase efficiency.

**Size:** Make sure you give your tree adequate room to grow, both above and below ground. A tree's roots can grow two to five times as far from the trunk as its canopy.

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## Recommended Trees for the Permian Basin

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Tree Type	Height	Spread	Growth Rate	Life Span	Water Use	Flowering	Utility*	Comments
SMALL	Mexican Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis var. mexicana</i>	Deciduous	20'	15'	Med-Fast	Short	Low	Yes	10'	Ornamental, naturally multi-trunked
	Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Deciduous	25'	25'	Med-Fast	Medium	Low	Yes	10'	Ornamental, several flower colors, several flower color varieties available
	Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Evergreen	15'	10'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	10'	Multi-trunked, female with red berries, tolerates poor drainage
	Prairie Flameleaf Sumac	<i>Rhus lanceolata</i>	Deciduous	20'	15'	Med-Fast	Short	Medium	—	10'	Ornamental, multi-trunked, fall color, root suckers, prefers well-drained soils
	Texas Mountain Laurel	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Evergreen	15'	12'	Medium	Medium	Low	Yes	10'	Multi-trunked, fragrant flowers, needs well-drained soils, pest — leaf skeletonizer
	Vitex ('Lilac Chaste Tree')	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Deciduous	25'	20'	Fast	Long	Medium	Yes	10'	Ornamental, multi-trunked, varied flower color, messy litter
MEDIUM	Pinyon Pine (all varieties/cultivars)	<i>Pinus edulis</i>	Evergreen	30'	20'	Slow	Long	Medium	—	20'	Prefers well-drained soil, pest — spider mites and needle scale
	Chinese Pistache	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Deciduous	40'	40'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	20'	Sensitive to excessive (N) fertilizer, good shade, fall color
	Mesquite (all varieties/cultivars)	<i>Prosopis</i> spp.	Deciduous	30'	30'	Fast	Long	Low	—	20'	Thorns, fruit litter, thornless varieties available
	Texas Red Oak	<i>Quercus buckleyi</i>	Deciduous	40'	30'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	20'	Fall color, acorns
	Escarpment Live Oak	<i>Quercus fusiformis</i>	Evergreen	40'	50'	Med-Fast	Long	Medium	—	20'	Heavy shade, suckers if planted too deep, acorns
	Lacey Oak	<i>Quercus laceyi</i>	Deciduous	30'	25'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	20'	Prefers well-drained soils, acorns
LARGE	Western Soapberry	<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	Deciduous	40'	40'	Med-Fast	Medium	Low	—	20'	Fall color, root suckers in loose soils, showy fruit
	Cedar Elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Deciduous	40'	35'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	20'	Fall color, tough tree, good shade
	Lacebark Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Deciduous	40'	40'	Fast	Long	Medium	—	20'	Good shade, interesting bark, susceptible to cotton root rot
	Afghan Pine	<i>Pinus eldarica</i>	Evergreen	70'	30'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	30'	Good windbreak, does not tolerate wet soils, messy needle drop, pest — pine tip moth
	Italian Stone Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Evergreen	70'	40'	Medium	Medium	Medium	—	30'	Round canopy, good shade tree, prefers well-drained soils
	Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Deciduous	70'	50'	Med-Fast	Long	Medium	—	30'	Large acorns, good shade
Chinquapin Oak	<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	Deciduous	50'	40'	Med-Fast	Long	Medium	—	30'	Fall color, good shade, acorns	
Monterrey Oak	<i>Quercus polymorpha</i>	Deciduous	50'	40'	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	—	30'	Good shade, acorns	

\* Minimum recommended distance from overhead utility lines



# Recommended Trees for the Permian Basin



**Mexican Redbud**  
*Cercis canadensis var. mexicana*  
Ornamental, naturally multi-trunked



**Texas Mountain Laurel**  
*Sophora secundiflora*  
Multi-trunked, fragrant flowers, needs well-drained soils, pest — leaf skeletonizer



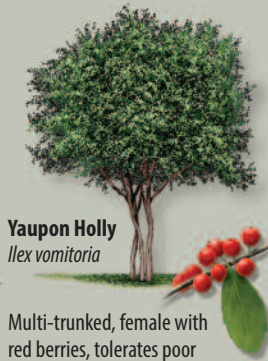
**Italian Stone Pine**  
*Pinus pinea*  
Round canopy, good shade tree, prefers well-drained soils



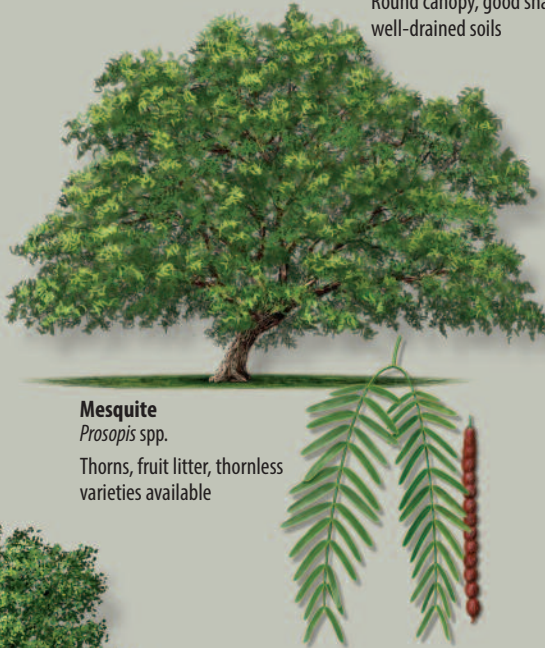
**Desert Willow**  
*Chilopsis linearis*  
Ornamental, several flower colors, several flower color varieties available



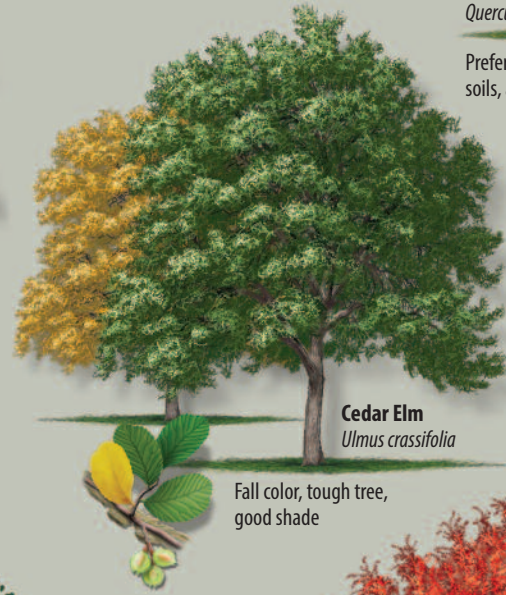
**Afghan Pine**  
*Pinus eldarica*  
Good windbreak, does not tolerate wet soils, messy needle drop, pest — pine tip moth



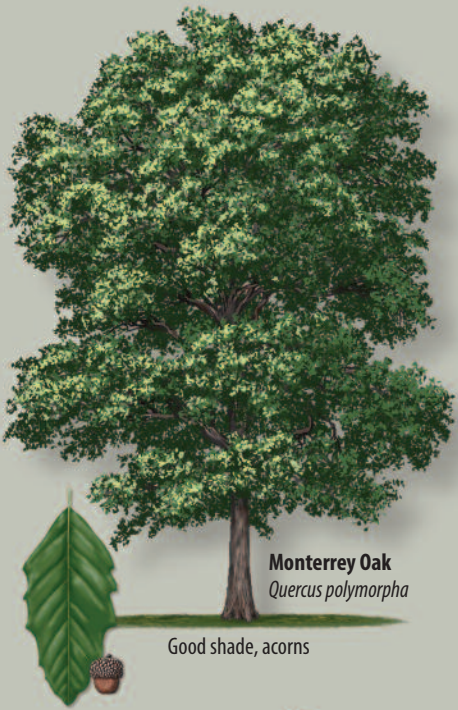
**Yaupon Holly**  
*Ilex vomitoria*  
Multi-trunked, female with red berries, tolerates poor drainage.



**Mesquite**  
*Prosopis spp.*  
Thorns, fruit litter, thornless varieties available



**Cedar Elm**  
*Ulmus crassifolia*  
Fall color, tough tree, good shade



**Monterrey Oak**  
*Quercus polymorpha*  
Good shade, acorns



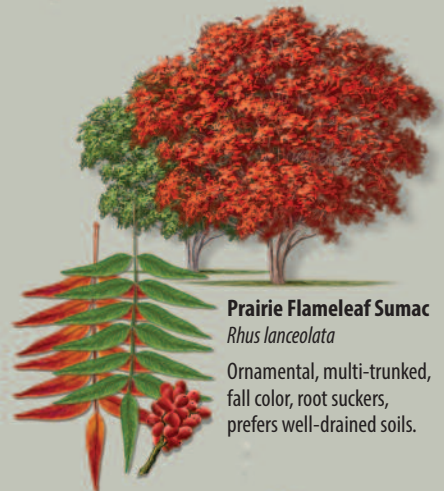
**Chinquapin Oak**  
*Quercus muhlenbergii*  
Fall color, good shade, acorns



**Bur Oak**  
*Quercus macrocarpa*  
Round canopy, good shade tree, prefers well drained soils



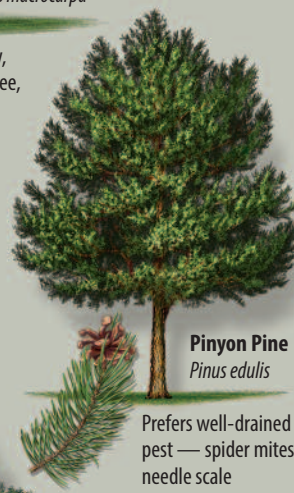
**Chinese Pistache**  
*Pistacia chinensis*  
Sensitive to excessive (N) fertilizer, good shade, fall color



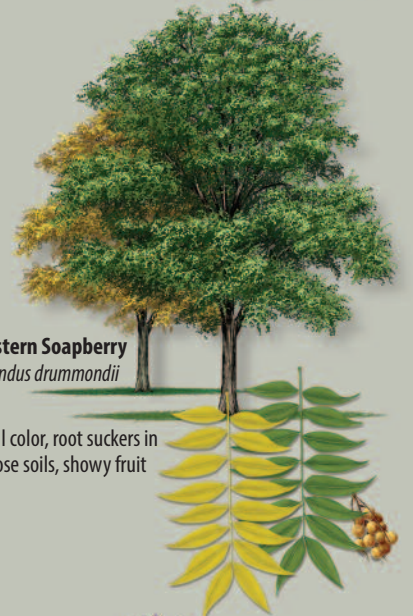
**Prairie Flameleaf Sumac**  
*Rhus lanceolata*  
Ornamental, multi-trunked, fall color, root suckers, prefers well-drained soils.



**Texas Red Oak**  
*Quercus buckleyi*  
Fall color, acorns



**Pinyon Pine**  
*Pinus edulis*  
Prefers well-drained soil, pest — spider mites and needle scale



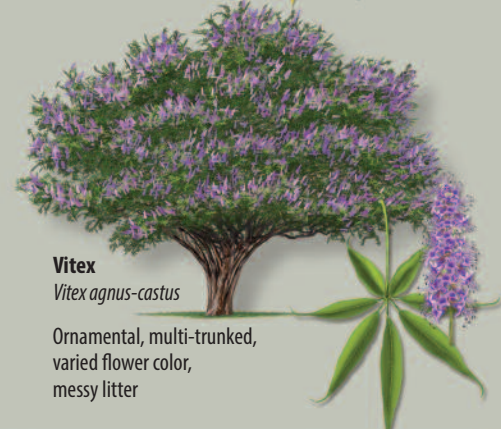
**Western Soapberry**  
*Sapindus drummondii*  
Fall color, root suckers in loose soils, showy fruit



**Lacebark Elm**  
*Ulmus parvifolia*  
Good shade, susceptible to cotton root rot, interesting bark.



**Escarpment Live Oak**  
*Quercus fusiformis*  
Heavy shade, suckers if planted too deep, acorns



**Vitex**  
*Vitex agnus-castus*  
Ornamental, multi-trunked, varied flower color, messy litter

## Relative Tree Heights

