

TABLE 1. OUTSTANDING TREES FOR SOUTHWEST TEXAS

Small trees	Mature size, ht x wd^a	Leaf and trunk^b	Flower and/or fruit^c	Notes
Anacacho orchid tree	10' x 15'	D/M	white, fragrant	needs full sun and well drained soil with occasional moisture; some cut ant damage
Evergreen sumac	12' x 10'	E/S-M	white, red/pink fruit in fall	drought tolerant; needs good drainage, a dry site, and sun; some cut ant damage; short lived
Fig	12' x 15'	D/M	edible fruit	tropical look; smooth white bark; not preferred by cut ants; may freeze back; susceptible to root knot nematodes and fig rust
Windmill palm	15' x 6'	E/S		furry-trunk; resistant to cotton root rot
Eve's necklace	15' x 10'	D/S-M	pink, usually	needs good drainage and sun or partial shade
Texas mountain laurel	15' x 12'	E/S-M	blue-purple, fragrant	deer and cut ant resistant; tolerates drought, thin soil and some shade; some damage from genista caterpillar; poisonous red seed
Pomegranate	15' x 12'	D/M	orange, edible fruit	Less preferred by cut ants; tolerates drought and some shade; yellow fall color; susceptible to the southern root knot nematode
Texas (Mexican) redbud	15' x 12'	D/S-M	pink-purple or white	tolerates drought, poor soil and light shade; leaves may turn brown and drop in late summer; short lived; cut ant damage
Prairie flameleaf sumac	15' x 12'	D/S	white, brown fruit in fall	needs dry site with perfect drainage and full sun; thickets form by root sprouts; purple-red fall color; short lived
Loquat	15' x 12'	E/S	edible yellow fruit	tropical look; may freeze back; susceptible to cotton root rot; tolerant of some shade
Mexican buckeye	15' x 15'	D/S-M	pink, fragrant	tolerates some shade, thin soil, and drought; yellow fall color; produces sprouts from base
Goldenball leadtree	15' x 15'	D/S-M	yellow	needs sun and good drainage
Yaupon holly	15' x 15'	E/S-M	red berries ♀	tolerates drought in good soil; poor drainage okay; iron deficiency; berries for birds in late winter
Texas smoke tree	18' x 12'	D/S-M	lavender	needs sun and well drained soil with occasional irrigation when young; multicolored fall foliage
	Mature	Leaf	Flower	

Small trees (continued)	size, ht x wd ^a	and trunk ^b	and/or fruit ^c	Notes
Ashe (blueberry) juniper (mountain cedar)	18' x 18'	E/S-M	dark blue fruit ♀	tolerates drought and thin soil; needs good drainage; over-plant, allergenic pollen ♂; some spider mite and foliage feeding worm injury
Hybrid crape myrtle	see below	D/M	white, pink, or light purple	smooth bark; Indian tribe-named hybrids are resistant to powdery mildew; full sun and occasional water; some aphid, sharpshooter, cut ant, and iron deficiency problems
Tuscarora	16' x 10'		dark pink- red	low vigor; iron deficiency and some winter dieback
Lipan	20' x 12'		light purple	vigorous
Natchez	20' x 15'		white	some iron deficiency
Comanche	15' x 10'		dark pink	some iron deficiency
Miami	20' x 15'		medium pink	some iron deficiency
Basham's Party pink	30' x 20'		light pink	vigorous
Rusty blackhaw viburnum	20' x 10'	D/S	white, blue/ black fruit	tolerates drought, thin soil and some shade; fall color
Wild olive	20' x 12'	D/S	white	needs sun; may freeze back north of Hwy US 90
Texas persimmon	20' x 15'	D/S-M	black fruit ♀, edible	smooth gray bark; deer and cut ant resistant; tolerates drought and thin soil; ♂ for patio, walks
Possumhaw	20' x 15'	D/M	red or orange berries ♀	needs good soil, sun to partial shade, ♂ for pollination; drought tolerant; some cut ant and tent caterpillar damage; some iron deficiency; berries for cedar waxwing spring migration
Flowering desert willow	20' x 15'	D/S	pink, purple or white, fragrant	willow-like growth habit; drought tolerant; needs full sun and well drained soil
Medium trees				
Texas pistachio	20' x 20'	E/M	purple-red fruit ♀	red new growth; needs full sun, low water, and good drainage; plant one ♂ as pollinator
Piñon pine	20' x 20'	E/S-M	cone, edible seed	very slow growing; tolerates dry thin soil; some pine tip moth and Diplodia blight damage east of Hwy US 83 if irrigated
Vasey (shin) oak	20' x 20'	D/M	acorn	forms dense thickets from root and crown sprouts; tolerates drought and thin soil

Medium trees (continued)	Mature size, ht x wd ^a	Leaf and trunk ^b	Flower and/or fruit ^c	Notes
Huisache	25' x 20'	D/M	orange, fragrant	tolerates drought and poor drainage; thorny
Mesquite	25' x 25'	D/S	white, multicolored pod	very drought tolerant; gives light shade; thorny; drips sap from large wounds; competes very aggressively for soil moisture within 50'
Western soapberry	35 x 25'	D/S	white, waxy yellow fruit	yellow fall color; very drought tolerant; can plant in groves; susceptible to bacterial leaf scorch
Lacey oak	35' x 30'	D/S-M	acorn	blue-gray-green leaf; oak wilt resistant; tolerates thin soil and reflected heat
Big tooth maple	35' x 30'	D/S	winged seeds	fall color; needs some irrigation; resistant to cotton root rot; may have squirrel damage
Chinese pistache	35' x 30'	D/S	Red-green fruit ♀	fall color; needs sun, good deep soil, irrigation; less susceptible to cotton root rot; ♂ preferred
Anacua	35' x 30'	D/S-M	yellow-orange fruit	drought tolerant; best in deep soil; may re-seed aggressively
Date palm	20' x 15'	E/S	yellow sticky fruit	freeze kill north of Uvalde; needs some irrigation; susceptible to lethal yellowing disease
California fan palm	25' x 10'	E/S	black fruits	spiny petiole; resistant to lethal yellowing, cotton root rot; susceptible to <i>Phytophthora palmivora</i>
Large trees				
Texas palm	40' x 10'	E/S	dark purple fruits	part shade or full sun; poor drainage okay; may freeze north of Del Rio, Uvalde, and Austin; leaves 4-6' long; resistant to cotton root rot;
Texas red oak	40' x 30'	D/S-M	acorn	red fall color; susceptible to oak wilt; tolerates thin soil; bark damage from squirrels
Chinkapin oak	45' x 30'	D/S	acorn	large leaf; oak wilt resistant; fastest growing oak
Cedar elm	50' x 30'	D/S	winged seed spring/fall	some fall color; drought tolerant; some powdery mildew, black spot, and aphids (honeydew)
Bald cypress	50' x 30'	D/S	tiny cone	fine texture; red-brown fall color; okay for poorly drained areas; needs irrigation in most landscapes
Live oak	50' x 60'	E/S	acorn	very large in good soil; susceptible to oak wilt; some produce root sprouts

^a Conditions that affect mature tree size include soil depth, competition from nearby plants, irrigation, and pruning practices. Estimates provided are for ideal growing conditions.

^b E=evergreen, D=deciduous, S=single trunk, M=multiple trunk, S-M=prune for single (taller) or multiple (shorter) trunks

^c ♀=female plant, ♂=male plant

TABLE 2. TREES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SOUTHWEST TEXAS

Tree	Major problems
Weeping willow	borers, drought stress and stress related cankers, cotton root rot
Cottonwood	cankers, borers, defoliation during drought, cotton root rot, iron deficiency
Arizona ash	anthracnose, borers, iron deficiency, weak branches, short life
Sycamore (local)	lace bugs, branch cankers short life, bacterial leaf scorch; ‘Mexican sycamore’ appears to be better adapted in landscapes
Boxelder	iron deficiency, anthracnose, boxelder bug; brittle wood
Mimosa	webworm, mimosa wilt, drought stress, cotton root rot, short life
Magnolia	iron deficiency for the first few years; drought stress
Deodar cedar	iron deficiency for the first few years, drought stress-related top die back
Pecan	aphids and their honeydew, webworms, weak limbs; limb damage from squirrels
Chinese tallow	iron deficiency, freeze damage
Bur oak	aphids and their honeydew, leafhoppers, leaf scorch during drought
Hackberry	seedlings are very invasive
Afghan pine	highly susceptible to Sphaeropsis (Diplodia) canker and stem blight;

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