

TREES for Texas Landscapes



The Texas A&M
University System



**Texas
Agricultural
Extension
Service**

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Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) has summer flowers for several months in a variety of colors.



The Chinese Pistachio Tree (*Pistacia chinensis*) is an excellent source of fall leaf color for much of Texas.



TREES for Texas Landscapes

William C. Welch*

Trees may be our biggest bargain for environmental improvement. No matter what the condition of a home or building, some well-placed and carefully selected trees can often make the entire environment much more attractive. Few structures are acceptable in the landscape without some trees. Furthermore, an environment that is good for the culture of trees has also proved to be good for people.

Communities where many good trees have been established and more are being planted demonstrate a feeling of continuity with the past and an anticipation for the future. Properly selected, placed and cared-for trees indicate a community or homeowner's pride in environment. We are all quick to point out to visitors and tourists the better residential districts, parks, campuses and other areas where established trees have survived as the most

beautiful parts of our communities.

In addition to these aesthetic reasons for having trees, some very practical ones include their climatic influences. Trees sometimes are referred to as nature's air conditioners. They moderate the climate by protecting from extremes in wind, heat, cold and drouth. Trees also help to purify the air. Adequate numbers of them can considerably reduce smog, noise and other air-pollution problems that are damaging large areas of our country. Many birds and animals also depend upon trees for food and shelter. With the current rise in power costs and possible future shortages, renewed interest will be developing in tree placement in the landscape for maximum contribution to the reduction of heat and glare inside the home.

If these reasons are not enough to encourage you to purchase some trees, keep in mind that real estate professionals testify to the considerable increases in property value

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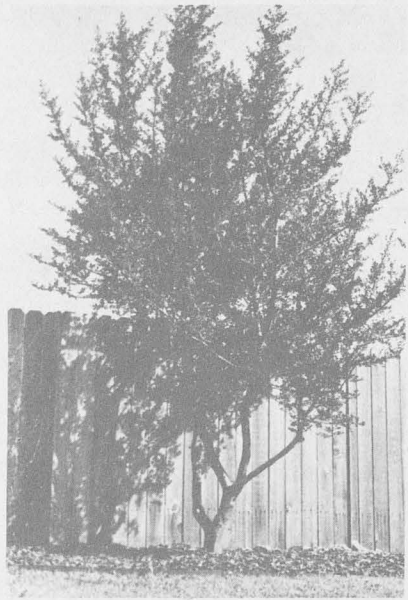
brought about by well-selected and attractively placed trees.

The diversity in soil and climate conditions in Texas makes it difficult to recommend a general list of trees for the state. Your local county Extension agent or nurseryman can provide you with information about which specie to plant in your area. Your county Extension agent also can provide you with several other Extension publications, such as "Evaluation of Texas Shade Trees" (L-1683); "Fertilizing Woody Ornamentals" (L-1097); "How to Transplant Woody Plants" (L-1037); "Landscaping for Energy Conservation" (L-1709); and "Planning the Home Landscape" (B-1192).

One of the objectives of the Extension educational program in landscape horticulture for Texas is the identification and promotion of the more effective tree species. In addition to work with native Texas plants, Texas home gardeners are showing a renewed interest in well-adapted plants from foreign lands, such as the Crapemyrtle and Chinese Pistachio. Texas homeowners are also looking for trees that will grow well in spite of temperature extremes, insect and disease attacks, and widely varying moisture conditions. Resistance to damage caused by high winds is also an im-

portant factor in choosing a specie.

A common mistake made by many homeowners is planting the fastest-growing tree available. Most of these so-called "fast growers" have long-term serious faults such as being weak-wooded, surface-rooted, short-lived or unusually disease- and insect-susceptible. Most



Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is an evergreen, native holly useful as a small tree or large shrub. The female plant has an attractive fruit during the fall and winter that draws many species of birds.

species of trees will respond to good care by growing at a relatively fast rate. The initial cost of a tree is so small in proportion to the value received over the years that a few extra

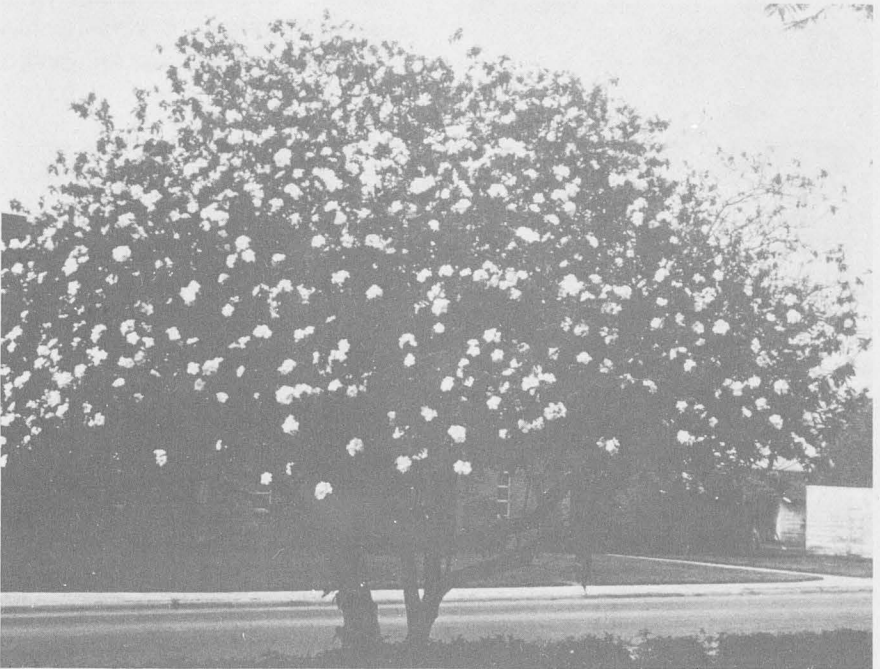
dollars at purchase time for an improved variety or better specie are well spent. For this reason, it is usually better to select a tree that will grow at a moderate rate and produce a stronger and longer-lived specimen.

The selection of trees for the home landscape deserves careful consideration in terms of the soil, availability of irrigation water and extremes in temperature. After analyzing the growing conditions, the homeowner should select trees that will be long-lived, strong-wooded and as insect and disease-resistant as possible, as well as of an ultimate size that will be appro-

priate in the overall landscape development.

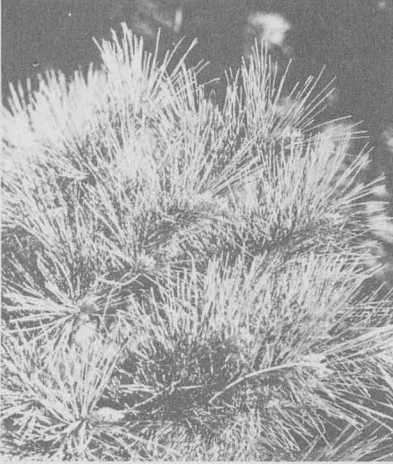


Wild Olive (*Cordia boissieri*), which is native to Southwest Texas, is useful as a small flowering tree that blooms during both spring and summer months.



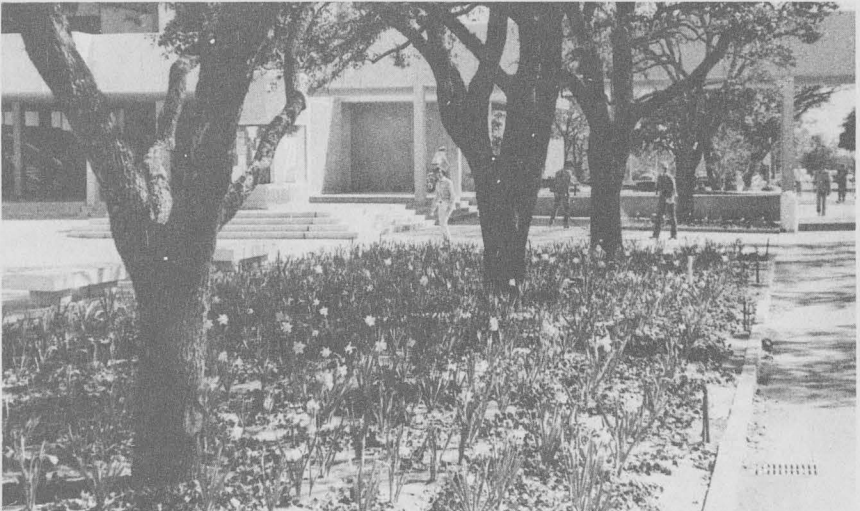
The multi-trunk form of the Wild Olive is frequently used in South Texas.

Developing along with the surge of interest in ecology has been a renewed interest in native plants. It is logical to assume that the plants which are native



The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) is adapted to areas of South and West Texas where pines do not normally grow.

to an area probably would require less maintenance since they have been growing there unattended for centuries. For example, our extensive native plant population provides many of our most highly regarded landscape trees, such as live oaks, shumard oaks, dogwood, redbud and pecans. However, with this abundance of native specimens, some people believe that they can dig trees themselves. But all too often, they may have only destroyed the trees or shrubs they have attempted to transplant, because moving native trees from their natural environment requires special skills and equipment that the average homeowner does not have available. Before attempting to move an estab-



The Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) has an interesting trunk and evergreen foliage, making it one of the most popular landscape trees.

lished tree or shrub, check with a local nursery, garden or center, or with an arborist. Many of these personnel are now equipped to move large trees.

Transplanting trees has been radically simplified in recent years, primarily because of the trend toward containerized nursery stock. Most container-grown trees available in nurseries may be transplanted with ease 12 months out of the year if given proper care. Even large balled and burlapped trees frequently are moved with insignificant losses during the growing season by professional nurserymen.

Trees are an environmental-improvement bargain Texas citizens cannot afford to miss.

The following list of trees, though not intended to include the only ones recommended for Texas, contains a good representative selection. This listing is also designed to provide general information concerning growth rate, adaptability and some outstanding character-

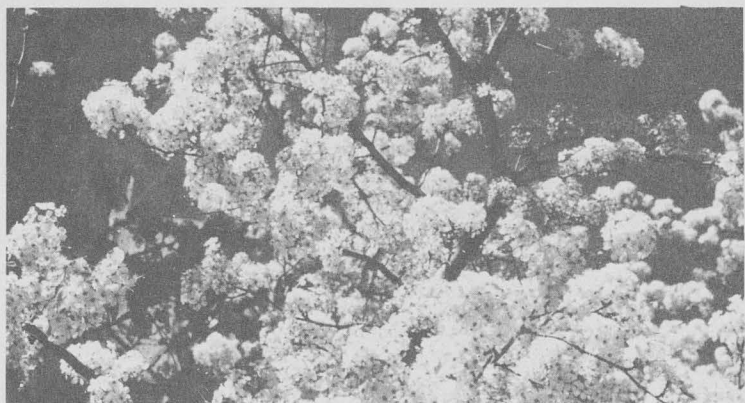
istics of the species included.

Proper transplanting and post planting care usually make a significant difference in the growth rate of a tree. For factual information on these topics, contact your county Extension agent or local nurseryman.



The Texas or Mexican Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*), although a pest in range areas, has a handsome trunk and foliage, making it a real asset as a landscape specimen.

The Flowering Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) is an excellent source of spring flowers.



SOME TREES RECOMMENDED FOR TEXAS

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | AREA BEST ADAPTED FOR |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| MEDIUM AND LARGE TREES | | |
| <i>Betula nigra</i> | River Birch | 1 |
| <i>Carya illinoensis</i> | Pecan | 6 |
| <i>Cedrus deodora</i> | Deodar Cedar | 6 |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> | Hackberry | 6 |
| <i>Ehretia anacua</i> | Anaqua | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Firmiana simplex</i> | Chinese Parasol | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Fraxinus velutina</i> | Arizona Ash | 2,3,5 |
| <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> | Ginkgo | 6 |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> | Kentucky Coffee Tree | 4,5 |
| <i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i> | Sweetgum | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Tulip Poplar | 1 |
| <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> | Southern Magnolia | 1 |
| <i>Morus alba [male]</i> | Fruitless Mulberry | 3,5 |
| <i>Pinus elliottii</i> | Mondell Pine | 2,3,4,5 |
| <i>Pinus elliottii</i> | Slash Pine | 1 |
| <i>Pinus halepensis</i> | Aleppo Pine | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> | Ponderosa Pine | 4 |
| <i>Pinus taeda</i> | Loblolly | 1 |
| <i>Pinus thunbergii</i> | Japanese Black Pine | 6 |
| <i>Pinus nigra</i> | Austrian Pine | 4 |
| <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> | Chinese Pistachio | 6 |
| <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> | American Planetree, Sycamore | 6 |
| <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> | Calleryana Pear | 6 |
| <i>Pyrus calleryana bradfordii</i> | Bradford Flower Pear | 1,3,4,5 |
| <i>Picea pungens</i> | Colorado Blue Spruce | 4 |
| <i>Quercus virginiana</i> | Live Oak | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | Bur Oak | 6 |
| <i>Quercus nigra</i> | Water Oak | 1,5 |
| <i>Quercus shumardii</i> | Shumard Oak | 1,2,5 |
| <i>Quercus texana</i> | Texas Oak | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Sapindus drummondii</i> | Soapberry | 6 |
| <i>Sabium sebiferum</i> | Chinese Tallow | 1,2,5 |
| <i>Taxodium distichum</i> | Bald Cypress | 6 |
| <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> | Cedar Elm | 6 |
| <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> | Chinese Elm | 6 |

GROWTH RATE

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| Fast | Trunks and bark | |
| Medium | Fruit and shade | |
| Medium | Color and form | |
| Fast | Fast shade, difficult situations | |
| Medium | Shade | |
| Medium | Green trunks | |
| Fast | Fast shade, subject to borers under stress | |
| Slow | Fall leaf color | |
| Medium | Shade | |
| Fast | Fall leaf color | } Prefer acid, sandy soil |
| Fast | Fall color, flowers | |
| Slow to medium | Foliage, flowers | |
| Fast | Fast shade, drought tolerant | |
| Fast | Fast growth, drought tolerant | |
| Fast | Evergreen, acid soil | |
| Medium | Evergreen, alkaline soil | |
| Medium | Evergreen, Pinetip moth | |
| Fast | Evergreen | |
| Medium | Evergreen, alkaline soil | |
| Medium | Evergreen, alkaline soil | |
| Medium | Fall leaf color, well-drained soil | |
| Fast | Fast growth, anthracnose prone | |
| Medium | Spring flowers, fall color | |
| Medium | Spring flowers, fall leaf color | |
| Slow | Color and form | |
| Medium | Evergreen, dependable | |
| Medium | Large acorns | |
| Medium to fast | Relatively fast growth, acid soil | |
| Medium | Fall leaf color | |
| Medium | Fall leaf color, form | |
| Medium | Fall leaf color, fruit, drought tolerant | |
| Fast | Fall leaf color | |
| Medium | Fine texture, adaptability | |
| Medium | Fall color, dependability | |
| Medium | Shade, colorful bark | |



Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*)



Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)



Soapberry (*Sapindus drummondii*)



Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | AREA BEST ADAPTED FOR |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| SMALLER TREES | | |
| <i>Cornus florida</i> | Dogwood | 1 |
| <i>Cercis spp.</i> | Redbud | 6 |
| <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Fringe Tree | 1 |
| <i>Crataegus spp.</i> | Hawthorn | 6 |
| <i>Crataegus opaca</i> | Mayhaw | 1 |
| <i>Cordia boissieri</i> | Wild Olive | 2 |
| <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> | Desert Willow | 2,3,5 |
| <i>Diospyros texana</i> | Mexican Persimmon | 2,3,5 |
| <i>Diospyros kaki</i> | Japanese Persimmon | 6 |
| <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> | Russian Olive | 6 |
| <i>Ilex opaca</i> | American Holly | 1 |
| <i>Ilex decidua</i> | Possumhaw Holly | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> | Yaupon Holly | 6 |
| <i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i> | Southern Golden Raintree | 1,2,5 |
| <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> | Panicled Golden Raintree | 3,4,5 |
| <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> | Crapemyrtle | 6 |
| <i>Lagerstroemia fauriei</i> | Japanese Crapemyrtle | 1,2,5 |
| <i>Magnolia soulangeana</i> | Japanese Magnolia | 1 |
| <i>Malus spp.</i> | Crabapple | 1,3,4,5 |
| <i>Olea manzanilla</i> | Manzanilla Olive | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> | Jerusalem Thorn | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i> | Texas Ebony | 2 |
| <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> | Mesquite | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Prunus caroliniana</i> | Cherry Laurel | 1,6 |
| <i>Prunus mexicana</i> | Mexican Plum | 1,2,3,5 |
| <i>Prunus persica</i> | Flowering Peach | 1,3,4,5 |
| <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> | Carolina Buckthorn | 1,2,5 |
| <i>Sophora secundiflora</i> | Texas Mountain Laurel | 2,3,5 |
| <i>Zizyphus jujuba</i> | Chinese Date | 6 |

-
1. East Texas
 2. South Texas
 3. West Texas
 4. North Texas
 5. Central Texas
 6. Adapted to most areas of Texas



Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)

GROWTH RATE

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS

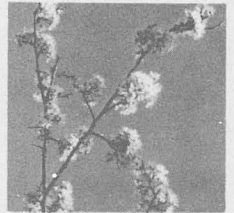
| | |
|--------|--|
| Medium | Flowers, fruit, form, acid soil |
| Fast | Flowers |
| Medium | Flowers |
| Medium | Flowers, fruit |
| Medium | Flowers, fruit |
| Medium | Flowers, trunk form |
| Medium | Flowers, drought tolerant |
| Medium | Trunks, evergreen, foliage, drought tolerant |
| Medium | Fruit |
| Fast | Shade, windbreak, silver foliage |
| Slow | Form, fruit, evergreen, acid soil |
| Medium | Fruit |
| Medium | Fruit, evergreen |
| Fast | Flowers, fruit |
| Medium | Flowers, fruit |
| Medium | Flowers |
| Medium | Trunks, flowers |
| Medium | Flowers |
| Medium | Flowers |
| Medium | Gray foliage |
| Fast | Flowers, fine texture, green stems |
| Medium | Flowers |
| Fast | Fast growth rate, form and leaf color |
| Medium | Evergreen foliage |
| Medium | Fragrant flowers, trunks |
| Fast | Spring flowers, short life |
| Medium | Fruit and foliage |
| Fast | Evergreen, fragrant flowers |
| Medium | Fruit |



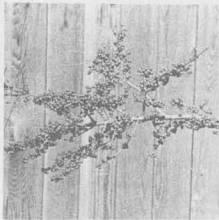
Chinese Date
(*Zizyphus jujuba*)



Japanese Crapemyrtle
(*Lagerstroemia fauriei*)



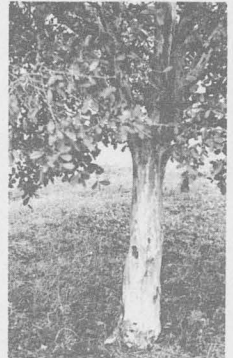
Mexican Plum
(*Prunus mexicana*)



Possumhaw Holly
(*Ilex decidua*)



Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) — fast-growing native of South Texas and a pest in range areas, but an attractive addition to the home landscape.



Texas or Mexican Persimmon
(*Diospyros texana*)



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