



# Selecting Deciduous Trees for Oklahoma

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Deciduous trees (trees that lose all or most of their leaves at the end of a growing season) affect the well-being and appearance of Oklahoma communities. They contribute to an atmosphere of peace of mind and relaxation. One of the most effective ways to improve community appearance is to plant trees. Trees also increase recreational opportunities, bolster local property values and aid in reduced noise pollution. Because there are so many deciduous trees for use in landscaping, carefully select appropriate trees for your needs. Selection should be based on several different factors. The intended purpose should influence selection of trees with appropriate shape, size and other physical characteristics. Deciduous trees are used for shade, ornamentation, screening, windbreak, sound-reducing purposes and to attract wildlife. Deciduous trees also can be selected to provide edible fruit or nuts. When properly selected and maintained, trees can increase property values. Selecting native or adapted trees is important for long-term survival and reduced maintenance. Providing shade usually requires tall, sturdy, long-living species. Density of foliage, which determines the amount of shade, is important. A tree such as red maple will produce a very dense shade that may prevent other plants from growing under it, while a Kentucky coffeetree will produce a light partial shade, allowing some plants enough sunlight to grow. Deciduous trees should be used to shade the south and west windows of a home in the summer, allowing the sun to penetrate in the winter.

Screens usually require plants that produce dense foliage. Evergreen plants are usually chosen for screening, but deciduous plants can also be used. Windbreaks must be able to survive rigorous climatic conditions. Barrier plantings usually require sturdy plants with dense growth.

Ornamental attributes are quite varied. Deciduous trees can be selected for flowers, colorful fruit, interesting summer foliage, fall or winter color, interesting bark or interesting shapes of the plants themselves.

Consider the size of mature trees and where they are to be used. Trees that grow tall, such as the American elm, burr oak, sycamore and tulip tree, are suitable for larger buildings and spaces. They tend to dominate or hide one-story buildings. For attractive and proper balance with one-story buildings, trees shorter than about 35 feet when full grown are recommended. Careful consideration of mature size will reduce the need for pruning. Avoid placing trees too close

to the home, as they can cause damage to the roof and fill gutters with plant debris. Roots of some species too close to the home may cause damage to the foundation. Plant trees at a minimum distance of half the mature canopy width away from the home.

Shape is especially important in selecting trees for ornamental and shade purposes. Tall trees with long, spreading, vase shapes or weeping branches give abundant shade. Small trees and trees of other shapes, including narrow, columnar, pyramidal and clump forms and the low-growing types, such as hawthorn, crabapple and dogwood have ornamental purposes but do not provide abundant shade.

Environmental conditions should influence the selection of trees. Size of the planting area is important, as are site characteristics such as sun or shade, wet or dry, exposure to winter winds or pollution. Trees selected should be tolerant of existing conditions and hardy in the climate zone where it is planted. The amount and quality of underground rooting space impacts tree growth, too. Tree roots are typically found in the top 18 inches of soil and often extend past the canopy. Trees growing in restricted root zones, such as between the sidewalk and street, or in new subdivisions with compacted sub-soil, often succumb to insect pests and diseases quicker, exhibit slower growth rates and reach shorter mature heights than trees growing in open spaces.

Finally, consider how much maintenance the tree will require and any possible disadvantages, including susceptibility to attack by disease and insect pests; soft or brittle wood that is easily damaged by wind and ice; fruits and seeds that are large, messy, smelly or otherwise obnoxious; and abundant shedding of twigs and small branches. Some examples of these conditions are the killing of ash by borers, breaking of Siberian elm branches by wind and ice and the production of bad-smelling fruit by the female ginkgo. The production of fruit by the mulberry, which attracts birds, can also be an undesirable characteristic. Since this fruit is soft and decomposes rapidly when ripe, it is messy on walks and attracts flies and other insects.

Fast-growing trees, such as silver maple and poplars, typically possess weak wood and are often short-lived. In addition, trees with weak, narrow crotch angles are sometimes susceptible to limb damage from snow/ice storms. Pruning can help eliminate narrow branch attachments, but some trees,

such as Bradford pear, inherently have narrow crotch angles and pruning will not be a solution. A few trees exist with strong narrow branch angles such as Japanese Zelkova and Japanese tree lilac, which can be successfully grown. Fast-growing trees and trees with weak, narrow crotch angles should be planted away from houses and other buildings to avoid potential damage from falling limbs. Under good growing conditions, trees known for slow growth rates, such as oaks, can grow up to two feet per year, and will provide long-term benefits. Asthma/allergy sufferers should avoid planting seedless or fruitless tree cultivars, which often have staminate (male) flowers that produce pollen.

Trees recommended below are merely examples of what grows well in Oklahoma. Lists provided are not comprehensive,

but are to assist the homeowner in working with their local horticulturists and professionals. If looked at for typical reasons, please realize, that some plants mentioned ARE NOT the best species to include in the landscape. Compromise in plant selection may be necessary for the specific purpose to be realized.

When "spp." is seen in a name, that implies multiple species and or hybrids are available and could be candidates.

Plants with an asterisk, while a desirable species, may not be found in all nurseries or garden centers, however, a nursery professional can suggest viable substitutes with similar attributes or possibly special order the tree. In some cases these trees may be found in online tree sites as well.

## Trees - Planting for a Purpose

### Tolerates or Prefers Dry Locations

Most or all of the trees listed below will still require vigilant irrigation for at least the first growing season. However, upon establishment, plants below are known to tolerate or even prefer dry sites. Tolerance to dry or xeric conditions will widely differ amongst these species, sometimes at the expense of normal flowering, fall color and overall aesthetic attributes. Appropriate mulching also bolsters trees' tolerance to dry soils.

Ash, Green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)  
 Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
 Buckeye, Red (*Aesculus pavia*)  
 Chittimwood (*Sideroxylon lanuginosum*)\*  
 Corktree, Amur (*Phellodendron amurense*)\*  
 Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
 Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
 Desert-willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)  
 Elm (*Ulmus* spp.)  
 Euonymus, Winterberry (*Euonymus bungeanus*)  
 Evodia, Korean (*Tetradium daniellii*)\*  
 Filbert, Turkish (*Corylus colurna*)\*  
 Goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)  
 Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
 Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
 Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)  
 Hornbeam, European (*Carpinus betulus*)  
 Jujube or Chinese Date (*Ziziphus jujuba*)\*  
 Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)  
 Lilac, Japanese Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)  
 Maple, Amur or Ginnala (*Acer tataricum* ssp. *ginnala*)  
 Maple, Hedge (*Acer campestre*)  
 Maple, Shantung (*Acer truncatum*)  
 Maple, Tatarian (*Acer tataricum*)  
 Oak, Black Jack (*Quercus marilandica*)\*  
 Oak, Bur (*Quercus macrocarpa*)  
 Oak, Chinkapin (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)  
 Oak, Post (*Quercus stellata*)\*

Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)  
 Oak, Sawtooth (*Quercus acutissima*)  
 Oak, Shumard (*Quercus shumardii*)  
 Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)  
 Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)  
 Pistache, Chinese (*Pistacia chinensis*)  
 Planetree, London (*Platanus x acerifolia*)  
 Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)\*  
 Pondcypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricatum*)  
 Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)  
 Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)  
 Scholar-tree, Japanese Pagodatree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*)  
 Smoketree, Common (*Cotinus coggygria*)  
 Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)\*  
 Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
 Yellowwood, American (*Cladrastis kentukea*)\*  
 Zelkova, Japanese (*Zelkova serrata*)



Desert-willow



Desert-willow flower

### Tolerates or Prefers Wet Locations

Plants listed below will only tolerate flooding for short periods of time (normally only a few days). Very few, with the exception of bald cypress and a few others, will actually survive long-term submersion of their root systems.

Alder (*Alnus* spp.)  
Ash, Green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)  
Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
Birch, River (*Betula nigra*)  
Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)  
Buckeye, Ohio (*Aesculus glabra*)  
Cottonwood, Eastern (*Populus deltoides*) (male selections)  
Elm, American (*Ulmus americana*)  
Elm, Cedar (*Ulmus crassifolia*)  
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
Hackberry, Sugar (*Celtis laevigata*)  
Hornbeam, American (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Linden, American (*Tilia americana*)  
Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)  
Maple, Silver (*Acer saccharinum*)  
Mulberry (*Morus* spp.)  
Oak, Pin (*Quercus palustris*)  
Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)  
Oak, Swamp White (*Quercus bicolor*)  
Oak, Water (*Quercus nigra*)  
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)  
Planetree, London (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

Pondcypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricatum*)  
Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)  
Sour Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)  
Willow (*Salix* spp.)



Pondcypress

### Tolerates or Prefers Shade

The following plants will perform well under shady conditions.

Beech (*Fagus* spp.)  
Buckeye, Red (*Aesculus pavia*)\*  
Buckeye, Texas (*Aesculus pavia* var. *arguta*)\*  
Buckthorn, Carolina (*Frangula caroliniana*)\*  
Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*)  
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)  
Fringetree, Chinese (*Chionanthus retusus*)  
Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)  
Hornbeam, American (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Magnolia, Saucer (*Magnolia x soulangiana*)  
Maple, Japanese (*Acer palmatum*)  
Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)  
Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)\*  
Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)\*  
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)  
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)\*  
Silverbell (*Halesia* spp.)\*  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)  
Sour Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)\*  
Yellowwood, American (*Cladrastis kentukea*)



Chinese fringetree



Sour Gum



Texas Buckeye

## Tolerates or Prefers Alkaline Soils

Many of the plants listed below will thrive and remain green despite growing in high pH soils. However, when pH values exceed pH 8.5 or higher, it may be difficult to culture some of the species below.

Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.)  
Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)  
Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*)  
Chittimwood (*Sideroxylon lanuginosum*)  
Cottonwood (*Populus* spp.)  
Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)  
Desert-willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)  
Elms (*Ulmus* spp.)  
Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)  
Goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)  
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)  
Honeylocust (*Gleditsia* spp.)  
Jujube or Chinese Date (*Ziziphus jujuba*)  
Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)  
Lilac, Japanese Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)  
Linden (*Tilia* spp.)  
Maple (*Acer* spp.)  
Mulberry (*Morus* spp.)  
Oak, Bur (*Quercus macrocarpa*)  
Oak, Chinkapin (*Quercus muhlenbergii*)  
Oak, English (*Quercus robur*)  
Oak, Post (*Quercus stellata*)

Oak, Shumard (*Quercus shumardii*)  
Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)  
Pistache, Chinese (*Pistacia chinensis*)  
Planetree, London (*Platanus x acerifolia*)  
Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)  
Poplar (*Populus* spp.)  
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)  
Smoketree (*Cotinus* spp.)  
Scholar-tree, Japanese Pagodatree  
(*Styphnolobium japonicum*)  
Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)  
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
Walnut (*Juglans* spp.)  
Willow (*Salix* spp.)  
Yellowwood, American (*Cladrastis kentukea*)



**Mexican Plum**

## Winter Interest

Many plants have ornamental merit during the cold months. Many plants have characteristics that set them above all others; for example – the exquisite bark colors and textures of Heritage river birch, the colorful fruit of the deciduous hollies that persist into winter and the unusual branching habit of Corkscrew willows. Again, please know that plants were mentioned and/or listed below because of their ability to brighten a dull, winter day. They may not be ideal plants for certain settings if the need for winter beauty is not considered.

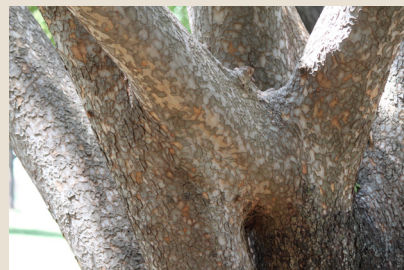
## Showy Bark and Branches or Unusual Form

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
Beech (*Fagus* spp.)  
Birch, Heritage River (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage')  
Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)  
Elm, Cedar (*Ulmus crassifolia*)  
Elm, Lacebark (*Ulmus parvifolia*)  
Elm, Winged (*Ulmus alata*)\*  
Fringetree, Chinese (*Chionanthus retusus*)  
Lilac, Japanese Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)  
Maple, Japanese (*Acer palmatum*)  
Maple, Paperbark (*Acer griseum*)  
Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)  
Planetree, London (*Platanus x acerifolia*)  
Pondcypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricatum*)

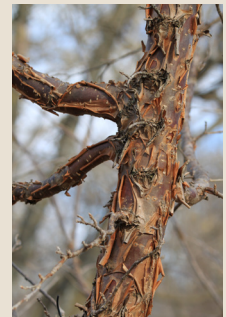
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
Willow, Corkscrew (*Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa')  
Zelkova, Japanese (*Zelkova serrata*)



**Paperbark maple**



**Lacebark Elm**



**Chinese fringetree**

### Interesting or showy fruit

- Buckthorn, Carolina (*Frangula caroliniana*)\*
- Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)
- Euonymus, Winterberry (*Euonymus bungeanus*)
- Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)\*
- Goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
- Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)
- Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
- Linden or Basswood (*Tilia* spp.)
- Pistache, Chinese (*Pistacia chinensis*)
- Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)\*
- Scholar-tree, Japanese Pagodatree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*)
- Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)\*



Fruits of winterberry euonymus



Chinese Pistache



Fruits of Western soapberry

## Showy Flowers

We expect herbaceous ornamental plants to bloom in the landscape, but when we have trees that bloom, that is an added bonus. Flowers provide changing interest throughout the year. The following plants provide colorful, showy flowers at different times during the growing season.

Buckeye (*Aesculus* spp.)\*  
Catalpa (*Catalpa* spp.)\*  
Chestnut, Chinese (*Castanea mollissima*)\*  
Chitalpa (× *Chitalpa tashkentensis*)  
Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
Desert-willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)  
Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*)  
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)  
Fringetree, Chinese (*Chionanthus retusus*)  
Goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Lilac, Japanese Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)  
Magnolia, Star and Saucer (*Magnolia stellata*,  
*M. x soulangiana*)  
Magnolia, yellow flowering hybrids  
Peach, Dwarf (*Prunus persica* cultivars)  
Plum, Purpleleaf (*Prunus cerasifera*)  
Redbud (*Cercis* spp.)  
Scholar-tree, Japanese Pagodatree  
(*Styphnolobium japonicum*)  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)\*  
Silverbell, Carolina (*Halesia tetraptera*)\*  
Smoketree (*Cotinus* spp.)  
Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
Vitex or Chastetree (*Vitex* spp.)  
Yellowwood (*Cladrastis lutea*)



Chastetree



Catalpa



Redbud



Vitex

## Fall Color

Many factors influence the quality and intensity of fall color for any given year. Some of the plants listed below have specific species and/or cultivars that are known for reliable and markedly vivid fall color. When fall color is the priority trait desired, it is advisable to purchase the plant in the fall when such colors can be viewed and critiqued by the consumer.

Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.)  
Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
Beech (*Fagus* spp.)  
Birch (*Betula* spp.)  
Buckeye, Ohio (*Aesculus glabra*)\*  
Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia* spp.)  
Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)  
Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*)  
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)  
Fringetree, Chinese (*Chionanthus retusus*)  
Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)  
Goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)  
Hackberry (*Celtis* spp.)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Hornbeam, American (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)  
Linden (*Tilia* spp.)  
Maple (*Acer* spp.)  
Oak (*Quercus* spp.)  
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)  
Pistache, Chinese (*Pistacia chinensis*)

Redbud (*Cercis* spp.)  
Silverbell, Carolina (*Halesia tetraptera*)\*  
Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)\*  
Sour Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)\*  
Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)  
Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)  
Yellowwood, American (*Cladrastis kentukea*)  
Zelkova, Japanese (*Zelkova serrata*)



**Baldcypress fall color**



**Chinese pistache**



**Maple**



**Sour gum**



**Chinese fringetree**

## Use Under Power Lines

Just a few of many possible plants for use under power lines are listed below. All will be slow to reach a height as to interfere with overhead lines. Again, some plants below have the genetic potential over many years to actually reach power lines. Don't forget to look for the availability of dwarf cultivars in any species for growing under such structures.

Baldcypress, Dwarf (*Taxodium distichum* 'Peve Minaret')  
Buckthorn, Carolina (*Frangula caroliniana*)  
Crabapple (*Malus* spp.) (for specific types, see retailer)  
Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
Dogwood, Flowering (*Cornus florida*)  
Elm, Seijou Lacebark (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Seijou')  
Euonymus, Winterberry (*Euonymus bungeanus*)  
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)  
Fringetree, Chinese (*Chionanthus retusus*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)  
Magnolia, Star (*Magnolia stellata*)  
Maple, Amur or Ginnala (*Acer tataricum* spp. *ginnala*)  
Maple, Hedge (*Acer campestre*)  
Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)\*  
Redbud, Chinese (*Cercis chinensis*)

Redbud, Oklahoma (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma')  
Rose-of-Sharon or Shrub Althea (*Hibiscus syriacus*)  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)\*  
Smoketree (*Cotinus* spp.)  
Wireless® Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Schmidtlow')



Mexican plum



Dwarf baldcypress



Chinese fringetree



Wireless® Zelkova



## Large Containers

Just a few of the many plants that are candidates for large containers are listed below. Realistically, some plants do not perform well long-term or outgrow containers after many years. If permanent plantings are your expectation, check with garden center personnel for the best plant(s) to use for long-term success.

Buckthorn, Carolina (*Frangula caroliniana*)\*  
Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
Crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)  
Desert-willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)  
Elm, Seijou Lacebark (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Seijou')  
Euonymus, Winterberry (*Euonymus bungeana*)  
Goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

Harry Lauder's Walkingstick (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta')  
Holly, Deciduous (*Ilex* spp.)  
Maple Amur or Ginnala (*Acer tataricum* ssp. *ginnala*)  
Maple, Japanese (*Acer palmatum*)  
Maple, Paperbark (*Acer griseum*)  
Maple Shantung (*Acer truncatum*)  
Maple, Tatarian (*Acer tataricum*)  
Maple, Trident (*Acer buergerianum*)  
Peach, Dwarf (*Prunus persica* cultivars)  
Plum, Purpleleaf (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea')  
Redbud, Eastern (*Cercis canadensis*)  
Redbud, Oklahoma (*Cercis canadensis* ssp. *texensis* 'Oklahoma')  
Smoketree (*Cotinus coggygia*)

## Attract Wildlife

Many gardeners not only enjoy plants in the landscape, but also the wildlife that may be attracted to them. The following plants may attract wildlife by the fruits they produce or by providing physical protection.

Birch, River (*Betula nigra*)  
Buckeye (*Aesculus* spp.)  
Buckthorn, Carolina (*Frangula caroliniana*)\*  
Cherry & Plum (*Prunus* spp.)  
Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)  
Desert-willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)  
Dogwood (*Cornus* spp.)  
Elm, Lacebark (*Ulmus parvifolia*)  
Hackberry (*Celtis* spp.)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Hickory (*Carya* spp.)  
Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)  
Maple (*Acer* spp.)  
Mulberry (*Morus* spp.)  
Oak (*Quercus* spp.)  
Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)  
Pear (*Pyrus* spp.)  
Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)

Persimmon, American (*Diospyros virginiana*)  
Plum, American Red (*Prunus americana*)  
Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)\*  
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)\*  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)\*  
Sour Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)\*  
Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)\*



Deciduous holly



Crabapple



Western soapberry

## Native Species\*\*

Native - native in this context is being defined as any plant native to somewhere in the continental United States, not just Oklahoma.

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)  
Birch, River (*Betula nigra*)  
Buckeye, Bottlebrush (*Aesculus parviflora*)  
Buckeye, Ohio (*Aesculus glabra*)  
Buckeye, Red (*Aesculus pavia*)  
Buckeye, Texas (*Aesculus glabra* var. *arguta*)  
Buckthorn, Carolina (*Frangula caroliniana*)  
Cucumbertree, Yellow (*Magnolia acuminata*)  
Elm, Cedar (*Ulmus crassifolia*)  
Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)  
Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)  
Hophornbeam, American (*Ostrya virginiana*)  
Hornbeam, American (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)  
Maple, Caddo Sugar (*Acer saccharum* 'Caddo')  
Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)  
Oak, Blackjack (*Quercus marilandica*)  
Oak, Burr (*Quercus macrocarpa*)  
Oak, Chinkapin (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)  
Oak, Nuttall (*Quercus texana*)  
Oak, Pin (*Quercus palustris*)  
Oak, Post (*Quercus stellata*)  
Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)  
Oak, Shingle (*Quercus imbricaria*)  
Oak, Swamp white (*Quercus bicolor*)  
Oak, White (*Quercus alba*)  
Oak, Willow (*Quercus phellos*)  
Plum, Mexican (*Prunus mexicana*)\*

Pondcypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricatum*)  
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)  
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)  
Silverbell, Carolina (*Halesia tetraptera*)\*  
Smoketree, American (*Cotinus obovatus*)  
Soapberry, Western (*Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*)  
Sour Gum or Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)\*  
Sumac, Flameleaf or Shining (*Rhus copallinum*)\*  
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)  
Yellowwood, American (*Cladrastis kentukea*)\*

\*\* This list does not represent a comprehensive view of native ornamentals that could be grown in Oklahoma.



Mexican plum



Chinkapin oak



Swamp white oak



Kentucky coffeetree

## Undesirable Trees

The following trees, though common and often used due to their rapid growth, may not be the best choice for the typical residential landscape. Due to their fast growth these trees are often more susceptible to disease and insect attack as well as storm damage.

**Cottonwood, Eastern (*Populus deltoides*).** Grows too big for a typical landscape. Over time roots grow on the surface. Fast growing, weak wooded, messy, and susceptible to diseases and insects. Male selections may be appropriate for certain situations. Consult with retailer.

**Maple, Silver (*Acer saccharinum*).** Shallow root system that can invade flowerbeds. Fast growing, resulting in weak, brittle wood. Appropriate only in limited settings.

**Pear, Callery cultivars (*Pyrus calleryana*)** Very tolerant of soil types and drought conditions and has excellent spring flowers and fall color. However, branching structure, especially of Bradford is poor, resulting in storm damage as it ages. Cross pollination of Callery pear cultivars and the species results in fruit, which has put this tree on the invasive species watch list. Consult with retailer to consider appropriate ornamental pears for specific needs.

**Poplars (*Populus spp.*).** Extremely tolerant of soil conditions. Surface roots. Many disease and insect problems. Weak wooded. Attractive, but inferior tree. Appropriate only in specific settings; see retailer for alternative species.

## Tree Selection Guide (Table 1)

Mature height (H) will vary considerably by cultivar and site and is shown here assuming adequate care: Low: <20 feet; Medium: 20 to 40 feet; and High: >40 feet.

Growth rate (GR) refers to height growth for the first 10 years after a tree is planted and is shown as follows: Low: <12 inches/year; Medium: 12 to 24 inches/year; and High: >24 inches/year.

Region refers to the area of Oklahoma in which the plant grows best.

P - panhandle  
NW - northwest  
SW - southwest  
NE - northeast  
SE - southeast  
A - all regions

**Table 1. Deciduous Trees.**

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Alder ( <i>Alnus</i> spp.)	NW, NE	H	H	Interesting flowers and fruits. Tolerates wet soils.
Ash, Green ( <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> )	A	H	H	Grows well in a variety of soils. Good fall color. Borers may be a problem.
Ash, White ( <i>Fraxinus americana</i> )	A	M	M	Not as adaptable to various soils as green ash. Needs well-drained soil. Borers may be a problem.
Beech, American ( <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> )	NE, SE	L	H	Beautiful tree in spring and summer. Prefers moist, well-drained, sandy soils.
Birch, River ( <i>Betula nigra</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	H	H	Less susceptible to borers. Thrives in moist soils of various textures. Leaves may turn yellow and drop during the heat of the summer. Best birch for Oklahoma.
Boxelder ( <i>Acer negundo</i> )	A	H	H	Adaptable to wide variety of soils. Boxelder bugs are attracted to this tree and can be a nuisance.
Buckeye, Bottlebrush ( <i>Aesculus parviflora</i> )	NE, SE	L	L	Long panicles of white flowers in early summer. Moist, well-drained, acid soil is preferred, though it is adaptable. Full sun or as an understory tree in part shade.
Buckeye, Ohio ( <i>Aesculus glabra</i> )	NE, SE	M	M	Greenish yellow flowers in spring; best in moist, well-drained, slightly acid soil.
Buckeye, Red ( <i>Aesculus pavia</i> )	NE, SE	M	M	Grows best in deep, rich, well-drained, moist, sandy loam soils. Leaf scorch as well as some diseases and insects can be a problem if not grown in ideal conditions. Provide partial shade.
Buckeye, Texas ( <i>Aesculus glabra</i> var. <i>arguta</i> )	NE, SE	M	L	Yellow-green flowers.
Buckthorn, Carolina or Indiantcherry ( <i>Frangula caroliniana</i> )	A	M	L	Oklahoma Proven Selection. Attractive fruit.
Catalpa, Southern ( <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> )	A	M	M	Will grow in just about any soil. Flowers in spring are quite showy. Tree is rather weak wooded and messy.
Chestnut, Chinese ( <i>Castanea mollissima</i> )	NE, SE	M	L	Prefers full sun and reasonably well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. Edible fruit.
Chitalpa (x <i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i> )	A	M	H	x Chitalpa tashkentensis is an inter-generic hybrid cross between desert willow ( <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> ) and southern catalpa ( <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> ). Although drought tolerant, trees generally perform best with consistent and even moisture. Bell-shaped, pink to white, catalpa-like flowers bloom at the branch ends in summer. Powdery mildew can be a significant problem in growing areas with high summer humidity or if located in too much shade.
Chittimwood ( <i>Sideroxylon lanuginosum</i> )	A	L	M	Underutilized native, adaptable, drought tolerant tree.
Coffeetree, Kentucky ( <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> )	A	M	H	Prefers deep, rich, moist, sandy loam soils, but very tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions and drought. Attractive, open, loose structure. Few problems. Female trees produce bean pods; male selections like 'Espresso' are available. Oklahoma Proven Selection.
Corktree, Amur ( <i>Phellodendron amurense</i> )	A	M	M	Tolerant of different soils and relatively drought tolerant. Interesting corky bark. Yellow fall color. Male cultivars available.
Crabapple, Flowering ( <i>Malus</i> spp.)	A	M	L	Excellent spring flower. Attractive fruit. Tolerant of most soil conditions. Height and growth habits widely vary depending on selections. Choose disease resistant varieties. 'Prairiefire' - Oklahoma Proven Selection. See retailer for specific types.

**Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).**

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Crapemyrtle, Common ( <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	L	Very adaptable. Excellent summer flowers, fall color; some have great bark color and texture. Select mildew resistant varieties. In northern areas, or depending upon selection, they may have a shrub type habit.
Cucumbertree ( <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Prefers deep, moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soils.
Cypress, Bald ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> )	A	M	H	Wonderful fern-like foliage and strong, pyramidal form. Found in swampy conditions, but is very drought tolerant and grows in many soils. No serious pest problems. May become chlorotic in highly alkaline soils. Oklahoma Proven Selection.
Cypress, Pond ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> var. <i>imbricatum</i> )	A	M	H	Similar to bald cypress, but more narrow in habitat and have needle-like leaves.
Dawn Redwood ( <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	H	H	Prefers moist, deep, well-drained, slightly acid soils. Beautiful trunk and foliage. Best suited for large areas.
Desert-willow ( <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> )	A	M	M	May grow asymmetrically. Requires well-drained, dry soils. Exceptional pink, purple, or white flowers in summer.
Dogwood, Cornelian Cherry ( <i>Cornus mas</i> )	A	M	M	Flowers are yellow in small clusters. Bright red edible fruit in mid-summer. More tolerant of soil conditions than flowering dogwood. Attractive bark with age.
Dogwood, Flowering ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )	NE, SE	L	L	Grows best in areas with partial shade and protected from hot dry winds. Prefers rich, well-drained, acid soils.
Dogwood, Kousa ( <i>Cornus kousa</i> )	NE, SE	L	M	Needs well-drained, acid soils. Sun to part shade. Spring flower and attractive fruit in late summer/fall. Good fall leaf color.
Elm, American ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )	A	H	H	Select Dutch elm disease resistant varieties/hybrids.
Elm, Cedar ( <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> )	A	M	H	Prefers well-drained, moist areas, but is tolerant of less favorable soil sites. Attractive native elm that produces a corky wing-like extension along sides of branchlets. Oklahoma Proven Selection.
Elm, Lacebark or Chinese ( <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> )	A	M	H	Exfoliating, multi-colored bark. Extremely tough and drought tolerant. Golden and upright forms available.
Elm, Winged ( <i>Ulmus alata</i> )		NE, SE	M	M Two, opposite corky wings on branches.
Euonymus, Pink Lady Winterberry ( <i>Euonymus burgearius</i> 'Pink Lady')	A	M	L	Attractive pink fruit that open exposing a white or pinkish seed with an orange aril. Occasionally contracts scale insects.
Eve's Necklace ( <i>Sophora affinis</i> )	A	M	L-M	Blooms late spring with wisteria-like pink, fragrant flowers that mature into black, bead-like strings of seeds that persist for winter interest. Grows naturally as an understory tree among native post oaks and cedar elms. It establishes fairly easily, can grow in full sun areas, and is extremely drought tolerant.
Evodia, Korean ( <i>Tetradium daniellii</i> )	A	M	M	Small white flowers in summer; attract bees. Showy fruits.
Fig, Common ( <i>Ficus carica</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	H	L	Easy to grow and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Needs protection during winter in the northern portions of Oklahoma. Grow for novelty and edible fruit.
Filbert, Turkish ( <i>Corylus colurna</i> )	A	M	H	Tolerant of adverse conditions; pH adaptable. Handsome tree with broad pyramidal habit with interesting leaves, fruit and bark.

Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Fringetree, White ( <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> )	NE, SE	L	L	Excellent specimen tree with white, fragrant flowers appearing in spring, and a nice yellow, fall color. Should be planted in soils that are fertile, moist, and well-drained. Will not tolerate windy, exposed, or harsh conditions. Asian cousin, <i>C. retusus</i> , selections are available.
Ginkgo ( <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Unique fan-shaped leaves medium to dark green in summer turning golden-yellow in fall. Tolerant of soil conditions and excellent for urban conditions. Usually slow rate of growth in Oklahoma. Male trees should be used to avoid foul smelling fruits.
Goldenrain tree ( <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> )	A	M	M	Bright yellow panicles of flowers appear in June to July. Papery fruit capsules can be rather showy. Very adaptable small tree that grows well in a variety of soils and conditions. Drought tolerant. Red-shoulder bugs may be a nuisance to the homeowner.
Hackberry ( <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> )	A	H	H	Small, purple to black fruits appear in fall and are relished by birds and wildlife. Yellow fall color. Grows in about any soil type imaginable. Hackberry nipple gall insects can lessen overall appearance.
Hackberry, Southern or Sugarberry ( <i>Celtis laevigata</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	H	H	Good tree for urban situations. Fruit relished by birds.
Hawthorn, English ( <i>Crataegus laevigata</i> )	A	M	L	Grows just about anywhere with a great degree of drought tolerance. Spring flowers, with colorful fruit in fall. Good fall color. Cedar hawthorn rust and fireblight may be occasional problems along with borers and spider mites.
Hawthorn, Washington ( <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> )	A	M	L	Spring flowers; attractive summer and fall foliage color; attractive red, edible fruit; good wildscape candidate. Cedar hawthorn rust, on occasion, which temporarily lessens aesthetic value.
Hickory ( <i>Carya</i> spp.)	NE, SE	M	H	Large trees with good yellow or gold fall color, many with edible nuts. Best for large landscapes. Many native species found growing largely in the eastern half of the state.
Holly, Deciduous or Possumhaw ( <i>Ilex decidua</i> )	A	M	L	Excellent fall/winter berries ranging from red, orange, to yellow. Tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions.
Honeylocust ( <i>Gleditsia</i> spp.) Thornless	A	H	H	The species is thorny, but there are several thornless cultivars available. Thornless varieties are beautiful trees, but not without problems, with canker diseases being the most devastating. Avoid compaction stress and mechanical injury to trunks.
Honeylocust ( <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> )				
Hophornbeam, American or Ironwood ( <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> )	NE, SE	L	M	Rugged, dependable, disease and insect resistant tree.
Hornbeam, American or Ironwood ( <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	L	M	Will tolerate shade, and often found as an understory plant.
Jujube or Chinese Date ( <i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> )	A	M	L	Will tolerate just about any soil except poorly drained soil. Date-like fruit are slightly sweet and edible. Great as an accent, specimen plant, or shade tree. Thornless varieties available.
Katsuratree ( <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> )	NE, SE	M	L	Good for small residential properties. Foliage emerges with a reddish-purple tint, changing a bluish-green by mid-summer, and then a yellow to yellow-orange in fall; often has showy bark. Marginally drought tolerant. May be subject to scorch and other stresses due to the Oklahoma heat. Sometimes challenging to grow.

**Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).**

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Lilac, Japanese Tree ( <i>Syringa reticulata</i> )	A	M	L	Large, creamy white, fragrant flowers appear in early summer. Tolerates Oklahoma heat. Resistant to mildew, scale, and borer. This tree and related species often have exquisite bark.
Linden, American or American Basswood ( <i>Tilia americana</i> )	A	M	H	Good shade or street tree; unique flowers/seeds. Adaptable and tolerant of drier, harsher landscape sites. Spring flowers, which bees are attracted to and are favored for honey production. Occasional pests.
Linden, Crimean ( <i>Tilia x euchlora</i> )	A	M	H	Graceful in habit with lower branches skirting the ground. Leaves dark lustrous green. May be less susceptible to aphids. Can develop basal suckers on grafted forms.
Linden, Littleleaf European ( <i>Tilia cordata</i> )	A	M	M	Very attractive tree forming a densely pyramidal shape. Good tree for urban situations. Drought tolerant, however, may lose considerable leaves during severe stress.
Linden, Silver ( <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> )	A	M	H	Good street tree that tolerates heat and drought better than the other lindens.
Magnolia, Saucer ( <i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i> )	A	M	M	Beautiful, large flowers appearing before leaves in early spring. Many cultivars available. Mulch to conserve moisture and maintain slightly acidic pH. Excellent specimen tree. Flowers are sometimes killed by late frosts. Locate plant on the north or east side of a building to reduce early development of flowers that may be damaged by late frosts.
Magnolia, Star ( <i>Magnolia stellata</i> )	A	L	L	White, slightly fragrant, flowers appear early spring before leaves appear. Cultural comments are same as saucer magnolia.
Magnolia, yellow flowering hybrids	A	L	M	Yellow flowering hybrids have been around for many years, but are not as well known. Some popular cultivars include Evamaria, Elizabeth, Yellow Bird, Lois, Daphne, Yellow Lantern, Gold Star, Butterbowl, Honey Flower, and Anilou.
Maple, Amur or Ginnala ( <i>Acer tataricum</i> ssp. <i>ginnala</i> )	A	M	L	Excellent small tree, usually multi-stemmed. Brown to red, winged, fruit mature in late summer early fall, which are often striking. May have fall color of shades of yellow and red. Chlorosis in high pH soils.
Maple, Hedge ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )	A	M	M	Urban tolerant. Excellent small tree. Europeans use this species as a hedge.
Maple, Japanese ( <i>Acer palmatum</i> )	NE, S, E NW, SW	L	L	Should be protected from hot dry winds and late afternoon sun. Many cultivars and varieties available. Prefers deep, rich, slightly acid soils. Slow growing.
Maple, Paperbark ( <i>Acer griseum</i> )	NE, SE	L	M	Adaptable to a variety of soils. Performs well in clay soils. Good fall color. Good specimen tree. Provides partial shade. Protect from wind and direct sunlight.
Maple, Purpleblow or Shantung Maple ( <i>Acer truncatum</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	L	M	Leaves are reddish purple when emerging, changing to dark glossy green. Good fall color. Very drought tolerant. Good urban tree resistant to leaf scorch.
Maple, Red ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Fairly tolerant of soil conditions, but not particularly drought tolerant. Leaf scorch is common when planted in dry, rocky soils. Prefers moist, slightly acid conditions. Excellent fall color. Many cultivars available. Chlorosis can be a problem in western Oklahoma.
Maple, Sugar ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	A	M	H	Large tree with brilliant fall color. Best adapted to deep, rich, moist, sandy loam soils. Caddo sugar maple is native to west-central Oklahoma making it suitable for most regions of the state. Caddo is more resistant to leaf scorch.
Maple, Tatarian ( <i>Acer tataricum</i> )	NW, SW	M	M	Excellent small tree similar to amur maple. Good for residential landscape, street tree use, and perhaps planter boxes. Tolerant of adverse conditions including drought.

**Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).**

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Maple, Trident ( <i>Acer buergerianum</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	L	M	Well-drained, acid soils. Good drought resistance. Leaves emerge rich bronze to purple, maturing to glossy dark green. Handsome small tree with showy bark at maturity. Choose a fruitless variety to avoid the messy fruit. Not generally recommended except for the harshest landscape conditions. Weeping cultivars available.
Mulberry, White ( <i>Morus alba</i> ) (fruitless)	A	H	H	Best grown in acidic, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. It often grows in poor soils. Tolerates drought. Avoid wet, poorly-drained soils. Does not tolerate compaction or nearby construction activity.
Oak, Blackjack ( <i>Quercus marilandica</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	M	Slow growing, eventually becomes very large. Perhaps too big for the average-sized landscape. However, very tolerant of many soil conditions, even dry, clay soils. Very tolerant of city conditions. Oklahoma Proven Selection.
Oak, Bur ( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> )	A	M	H	Drought tolerant. In wild grows on dry limestone outcrops with alkaline reaction; prefers and grows largest in rich, bottomland soils.
Oak, Chinkapin ( <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> )	A	M	H	Prefers well-drained soil, pH tolerant, full sun. Powdery mildew and scale can sometimes be a problem. Narrow, upright selection available.
Oak, English ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	A	M	H	Prefers moist, rich soils, but adapts well to less hospitable soil sites.
Oak, Northern Red ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Best grown in rich, moist, acidic loams in full sun. Adapts to a wide variety of soil conditions including heavy clay soils.
Oak, Nuttall ( <i>Quercus texana</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Develops iron chlorosis in alkaline soils.
Oak, Pin ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> )	NE, SE	H	H	Best grown in rich, moist, acidic, well-drained loams in full sun. Adapts to a wide variety of soil conditions from poor dry sandy soils to moist heavy loams. Prefers acidic soils. Good drought tolerance. Native oak that does not tolerate compaction, construction activity, grade changes, etc.
Oak, Post ( <i>Quercus stellata</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	M	Leaves open a brilliant yellow to golden yellow in spring turning a dark lustrous green in summer. Quite adaptable to soils, may develop chlorosis in high pH soils. Subject to ice damage.
Oak, Sawtooth ( <i>Quercus acutissima</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	H	Similar to pin oak, but may be found on dry, sandy sites. Subject to, but does not develop chlorosis to the degree of pin oak.
Oak, Scarlet ( <i>Quercus coccinea</i> )	A	M	H	Prefers moist, rich, deep, well-drained, acid soils although tolerates drier soils.
Oak, Shingle ( <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Excellent tree for Oklahoma. Oklahoma Proven Selection.
Oak, Shumard ( <i>Quercus shumardii</i> )	A	M	H	Will grow in swampy areas. Also drought tolerant. Requires neutral to acidic soil.
Oak, Swamp White ( <i>Quercus bicolor</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Moisture loving, bottomland tree, native to wetlands. Semi-evergreen foliage. Fast growing and matures to very large dimensions so site accordingly.
Oak, Water ( <i>Quercus nigra</i> )	NE, SE	H	H	Slow grower, becoming very large with age. Brilliant fall color. Prefers rich, moist, acid soils. Chlorosis occurs in high pH soils.
Oak, White ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Good yellow fall color. Fast growing. Needs moist, acid soil conditions for best growth. Chlorosis in high pH soils.
Oak, Willow ( <i>Quercus phellos</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	White citrus-like spring flowers, very fragrant. Edible fruit. Dark green trifoliolate leaves that turn yellow in fall. Grows in a wide range of soil conditions. Used primarily as a hedge or small tree. Produces thorns. Good for birds seeking shelter.
Orange, Trifoliolate ( <i>Poncirus trifoliata</i> )	NE, SE	L	L	



**Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).**

Species	Region	Growth		Height	Comments
		Rate			
Osage-orange ( <i>Maclura pomifera</i> ) 'Whiteshield'	A	M	M	Will grow anywhere and is extremely drought tolerant. Choose male cultivars such as 'Whiteshield' to alleviate the problem of large messy fruits and thorns. This tree is challenging to find.	
Parrotia, Persian ( <i>Parrotia persica</i> )	A	M	M	Oklahoma Proven Selection - Collector's Choice. Showy trunk, exceptional fall color.	
Pawpaw ( <i>Asimina triloba</i> )	NE, SE	M	L	Nodding red/purple flowers appearing before leaves emerge. Edible fruit. Used primarily as a novelty plant. Provide shade for best growth. Yellow fall color.	
Peach, Dwarf ( <i>Prunus persica</i> cultivars)	A	M	L	Also known as patio peaches, they are very ornamental with showy flowers and edible fruit. Red-leafed selections available.	
Pecan ( <i>Carya illinoensis</i> )	A	H	H	Native to deep, rich, moist, well-drained soils. Not a good tree for poor soils. Provides excellent shade, but will often drop large limbs as it becomes older. Will usually produce nuts that are edible, but some consider them messy. Subject to many pests. May have showy yellow fall color.	
Persimmon, Common ( <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	L	L	M Edible fruit. Prefers moist, well-drained, sandy soils, but will do well on low fertility and dry soils; pH adaptable. Will sucker forming thickets. Wildlife attracted to fruit. More of a novelty type plant. Attractive alligator hide bark. Webworms or tent caterpillars can be pests.	
Persimmon, Japanese ( <i>Diospyros kaki</i> )	NE, SE	L	M	Tolerant of soil conditions except poorly drained soil. Large colorful fruit and excellent fall color. More of a novelty plant. Check with a grower for most cold hardy selections.	
Pistache, Chinese ( <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> )	A	M	M	Widely adaptable. Excellent urban tree. Brilliant fall color. Wind and ice tolerant. Oklahoma Proven Selection.	
Planetree, London ( <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> )	A	H	H	Excellent bark color and texture. Good tree for large areas. Grows just about anywhere. More resistant to anthracnose than sycamore. Other diseases and insect problems may occur. Some consider messy.	
Plum, Mexican ( <i>Prunus mexicana</i> )	A	M	L	Interesting bark, white flower in spring and colorful purplish red fruit in late summer. Adaptable to various soil conditions, quite drought tolerant. Native to central and eastern Oklahoma; some references indicate it is native to all 77 counties.	
Plum, Purpleleaf ( <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> )	A	M	L	Does not grow well in heavy clay soils and are often prone to borers and leaf eating insects. Short-lived tree. Good purplish leaf color, white to pink spring flowers.	
Redbud, Eastern ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )	A	A	M	L Oklahoma state tree. Not finicky of growing conditions. Full sun to part shade. Showy clusters of flowers appearing before leaves in spring. Flower color purplish in color or white. Cultivars such as 'Covey' and 'The Rising Sun™' are excellent selections. Related species <i>C. chinensis</i> cultivars like 'Avondale' provide spectacular flowers and interesting shape. Many other types of rebuds are available in garden centers.	
Redbud, Oklahoma ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texasensis</i> 'Oklahoma')	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	L	Similar to eastern redbud except leaves are thick, lustrous, shiny, and dark green. Compact 10 to 12 foot at maturity. Flowers deep purple. Oklahoma Proven Selection.	
Rose-of-Sharon ( <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> )	A	H	L	Small tree or large multi-stemmed shrub. Large, showy summer flowers.	
Sassafras ( <i>Sassafras albidum</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	Outstanding native tree for fall color. Yellow flowers appear early spring before foliage. Excellent for naturalized settings. Needs moist, loamy, well-drained, acid soils. Develops chlorosis in high pH soils.	

**Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).**

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Scholar-tree or Japanese Pagodatree, ( <i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	M	Fragrant, creamy white blooms in mid-summer. Showy winter fruits. With stands heat and drought well. Some canker problems may occur resulting in slight limb dieback.
Serviceberry, ( <i>Amelanchier</i> spp.)	NE, SE	L	L	Most grow best in acidic, moist soil in sun to part shade. Allegheny serviceberry has bronzy leaf while unfolding in spring and purple bronze summer color. Fall color of serviceberry is colorful from yellow, gold, orange and red. Flowers are white and showy; fruit can be bluish purple, dark purple, and black, juicy and edible in some species.
Silverbell, Carolina ( <i>Halesia tetraptera</i> )	NE, SE	M	M	Good as small specimen tree or naturalized landscape plant. Saskatoon serviceberry tolerates harsh climate and alkaline soil; shadblow tolerates wet soils. Bell-shaped, white flowers in spring. Showy winged fruit. Prefers rich, well-drained, moist, slightly acid soils high in organic matter. Very effective as a specimen plant. Provide light shade.
Smoketree, Common ( <i>Cotinus coggygria</i> )	A	M	L	Produces large, loose terminal panicles of pinkish flowers in late May and June, some what feathery and delicate in appearance. Foliage color variable depending on cultivar from green to purple. Fall color is orange to red. Tough, adaptable, and drought tolerant.
Soapberry ( <i>Sapindus saponaria</i> var. <i>drummondii</i> )	A	M	M	Very drought tolerant and tolerant of a variety of poor, dry soil sites. Leaves turn golden yellow in fall. Small yellow-orange fruit. Red shoulder bugs seem to be attracted to this tree and can be a nuisance. Showy bark and overall growth habit.
Sour Gum or Tupelo ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> )	NE, SE	L	H	Brilliant fall color. Does very well on rich, moist, well-drained sites, but is tolerant of less favorable sites. 'Wildfire' is a relatively new clone for superior red fall color.
Sourwood ( <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> )	NE, SE	L	M	Good summer foliage color and excellent fall color. White fragrant flower in early summer. Grows in peaty, moist, well-drained, acid soils. Not good for urban sites; challenging to grow.
Sumac, Flameleaf or Shining ( <i>Rhus copallinum</i> )	NE, SE	H	L	Shrub or sometimes a small tree; fall color a rich red, crimson, and scarlet. Tolerates a wide variety of soils except poorly drained ones; can form colonies from suckers.
Sumac, Chinese ( <i>Rhus chinensis</i> )	A	H	L	Large shrub or small tree. Tolerates wide variety of soil; drought tolerant; good for erosion control. Best for naturalized areas because of its tendency to sucker and spread; can have good fall color, orangish red tones to yellow-red and apricot-red.
Sweetgum, American ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	H	Grow 'Rotundiloba' or 'Cherokee' - sterile selections. Excellent fall color. Thrives in damp, moist, rich, well-drained soils. Not as tolerant to drought or drier, upland sites. May develop shallow root system; may develop iron chlorosis in high pH soils, particularly in western Oklahoma. Easiest to grow in eastern half of the state. Narrow, upright selection available.
Sycamore, American ( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> )		A	H	H Large tree and should be used in large open areas. Anthracnose is most common problem. Adapted to a wide range of soil conditions. Can be messy dropping fruit, leaves, twigs, and bark nearly year round.
Tuliptree or Tulip Poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	NE, SE	H	H	Produces an orange-yellow, tulip-like flower in spring, usually high in the tree so it often goes unnoticed. Best for large and open landscapes. More narrow and upright selections available.

**Table 1. Deciduous Trees (cont'd).**

Species	Region	Growth Rate	Height	Comments
Vitex, Chastetree ( <i>Vitex negundo</i> )	A	H	L	Produces blue-purple, lilac, or lavender flowers in mid-summer. May freeze back, but will come back from roots. Good for butterfly gardens.
Walnut, Black ( <i>Juglans nigra</i> )	A	M	H	Thrives in deep, rich, moist soils, tolerates drier soils. Large shade tree with edible nuts.
Willow, Corkscrew ( <i>Salix matsudana</i> 'Tortuosa')	A	H	M	Fast growing and like any other willow is susceptible to many diseases and insects. This tree has uniquely twisted branches that are used in floral arrangements. May be short-lived.
Willow, Weeping ( <i>Salix babylonica</i> )	A	H	H	Grows best in moist to wet soils. Susceptible to many disease and insect problems especially when stressed.
Witchhazel ( <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> )	NE, SE, NW, SW	M	L	Yellow or red fragrant flowers appear in winter. Prefers a moist soil and partial shade; avoid extremely dry areas. Yellow fall color.
Yellowwood ( <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> )	NE, SE	M	H	White, fragrant flowers on pendulous terminal panicles in spring. Spring foliage has yellowish-green color turning to bright green in summer. Yellow to golden yellow in fall. Attractive smooth gray bark. Prefers deep, fertile, moist, sandy loam soils and is pH adaptable. Shows some degree of drought tolerance.
Zelkova, Japanese ( <i>Zelkova serrata</i> )	A	H	H	Elm relative with similar characteristics, thus sometimes planted as replacement for American elm. Dutch elm disease resistant. Once established is very wind and drought tolerant; pH adaptable. Good for streets and urban areas. Subject to elm leaf beetle feeding damage. Several cultivars and related species available.



**Caddo maple**



**Smoketree**



**Crapemyrtle**



**Japanese Maple**

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