

Design

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

Accents: Small 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
- Interfering with outdoor lighting
- Blocking views of street corners
- Encroaching on your neighbor
- Covering traffic signs
- Long term staking
- Unnecessary staking
- Covering chimneys
- Shading gardens
- Blocking windows

Selection

Purchase trees with a single, dominant trunk and a full, even canopy. Choose a tree that fits the area you've selected by following the "Where to Plant" Guidelines.

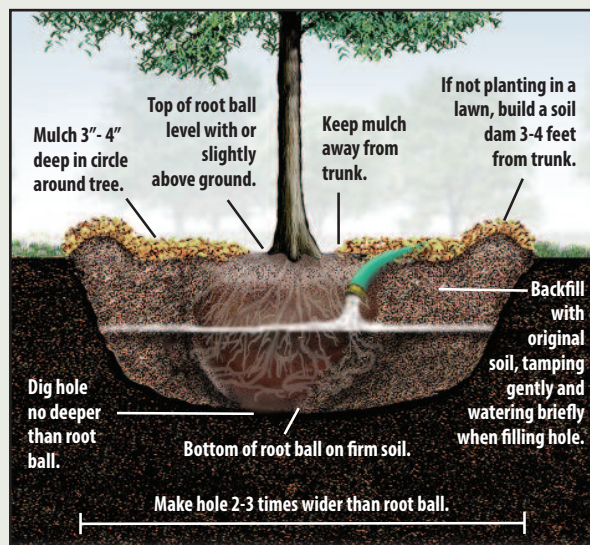
When to Plant

NOW! The best time to plant a tree was 10 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 the Permian Basin.

How to Plant

- Remove overfilled potting soil to find the root flare. This is where the trunk and root transition. Measure the height of the root ball then subtract an inch. Dig the hole no deeper than the root ball but 2 to 3 times as wide. Fill the hole with water and let it settle in.
- When the water has completely soaked in, remove all tags, tape, string, stakes, or wire from the tree. Measure the root ball again and adjust the hole depth if needed. *Completely remove (cut away if necessary) the container. Do not pull the tree out by its trunk. Handle the tree by the root ball.
- Spread out or cut girdling/circling roots.
- Minimize the root ball's exposure to the sun as you lift or roll it into the hole making sure that the "best side" faces the way you want it. The root flare should be slightly above the natural soil grade.

(Continued on back side)



- Fill the hole with the soil that was removed from the hole. Do not add root stimulator, fertilizer, compost, or other amendments. If there are many large rocks, remove them and mix the remaining soil with good topsoil.
- Water it in. When the hole is about 2/3 full, fill it with water to settle the soil and remove air pockets. Finish backfilling with native soil making sure to leave the root flare exposed, then finish watering it in.
- Add a 3" to 4" layer of organic mulch while keeping it 6" away from the trunk.

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 the winter, for the first few years. Be careful not to drown the roots. They need air as well as water to grow.

Pruning: During its first years, limit pruning to dead, damaged, or rubbing branches and training for a single dominant trunk. Trees need leaves to grow so minimal pruning will encourage growth. More information about trees and tree care can be found at www.tfsweb.tamu.edu/trees.

Tree Guide for the Permian Basin



A Tree Selection and Planting Guide

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Tree Guide for the Permian Basin

KNOWN AS THE “LAND OF THE HIGH SKY”, the Llano Estacado was a seemingly endless 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 semi-arid climate, soil, and water conditions.

Midland TreeKeepers is a subcommittee of Keep Midland Beautiful that collaborates with Texas A&M Forest Service and the 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 and maintaining a tree or by becoming a Midland TreeKeepers volunteer. Visit the TreeKeepers page on the Keep Midland Beautiful web site at www.keepmidlandbeautiful.org/treekeepers1 to learn more.

This guide was created to help you plan for, purchase, plant, and care for trees anywhere in the Permian Basin.



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 electric bill.
- Property Value:** The right tree in the right place helps 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. They can reduce noise and create visual and wind barriers.

Where to Plant?

- Call Before You Dig:** Dial 811 or visit www.Texas811.org to have underground utilities located before digging.
- Look Up and Look Down:** Consider the mature size of the tree to avoid structures and overhead lines. Look down to be sure there is room for the tree’s roots to spread.
- 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. Shading 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. Consider its proximity to other structures. A tree’s roots can grow two to five times as far from the trunk as its canopy. Plant trees at least half their mature size away from structures.

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	Cercis canadensis var. mexicana	Deciduous	20’	15’	Med-Fast	Short	Low	Yes	10’	Ornamental, naturally multi-trunked, great focal point, showy spring flowers
	Desert Willow	Chilopsis linearis	Deciduous	25’	25’	Med-Fast	Medium	Low	Yes	10’	Ornamental, several flower colors, several flower color varieties available
	Yaupon Holly	Ilex vomitoria	Evergreen	15’	10’	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	-	10’	Multi-trunked, female with red berries, tolerates poor drainage
	Prairie Flameleaf Sumac	Rhus lanceolata	Deciduous	20’	15’	Med-Fast	Short	Medium	-	10’	Ornamental, multi-trunked, fall color, root suckers, prefers well-drained soils
	Texas Mountain Laurel	Sophora secundiflora	Evergreen	15’	12’	Medium	Medium	Low	Yes	10’	Multi-trunked, fragrant flowers, needs well-drained soils, pest - leaf skeletonizer
	Mexican Buckeye	Ungnadia speciosa	Deciduous	25’	15’	Medium	Long	Low	Yes	15’	Drought tolerant native, clusters of sweet-smelling spring blossoms
	Pinyon Pine (all varieties/cultivars)	Pinus edulis	Evergreen	30’	20’	Slow	Long	Medium	-	20’	Prefers well-drained soil, pest - spider mites and needle scale, exudes sap
MEDIUM	Netleaf Hackberry	Celtis reticulata	Deciduous	30’	30’	Medium	Long	Low	-	20’	Tough, drought tolerant native tree, fall berries for wildlife
	Mesquite (all varieties/cultivars)	Prosopis spp.	Deciduous	30’	30’	Fast	Long	Low	-	20’	Thorns, fruit litter, thornless varieties available
	Texas Red Oak	Quercus buckleyi	Deciduous	40’	30’	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	-	20’	Fall color, acorns
	Escarpment Live Oak	Quercus fusiformis	Evergreen	40’	50’	Med-Fast	Long	Medium	-	20’	Heavy shade, suckers if planted too deep, acorns
	Lacey Oak	Quercus laceyi	Deciduous	30’	25’	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	-	20’	Prefers well-drained soils, acorns
	Western Soapberry	Sapindus drummondii	Deciduous	40’	40’	Med-Fast	Medium	Low	-	20’	Fall color, root suckers in loose soils, showy fruit
	Cedar Elm	Ulmus crassifolia	Deciduous	40’	35’	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	-	20’	Fall color, tough tree, good shade
LARGE	Lacebark Elm	Ulmus parvifolia	Deciduous	40’	40’	Fast	Long	Medium	-	20’	Good shade, interesting bark, susceptible to cotton root rot
	Afghan Pine	Pinus eldarica	Evergreen	70’	30’	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	-	30’	Good windbreak, does not tolerate wet soils, messy needle drop, pest - pine tip moth, exudes sap
	Italian Stone Pine	Pinus pinea	Evergreen	70’	40’	Medium	Medium	Medium	-	30’	Round canopy, good shadetree, prefers well-drained soils
	Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa	Deciduous	70’	50’	Med-Fast	Long	Medium	-	30’	Large acorns, good shade
	Chinquapin Oak	Quercus muhlenbergii	Deciduous	50’	40’	Med-Fast	Long	Medium	-	30’	Fall color, good shade, acorns
	Monterrey Oak	Quercus polymorpha	Deciduous	50’	40’	Med-Fast	Medium	Medium	-	30’	Good shade, acorns

* Minimum recommended distance from overhead utility lines