Irving’s Tree Guide

Presented by the Irving Parks and Recreation Department through the Irving Tree Board
TREE CITY USA is a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation that provides communities with direction, technical assistance, public awareness, and national recognition for their Urban Forest.

Tree City USA communities are required to:
- Develop a Tree Board
- Develop a tree care ordinance
- Have an annual Proclamation and Arbor Day Observance
- Annually budget at least two dollars per capita towards their Forestry Programs

Irving celebrates Arbor Day on the third Saturday of November each year at a local park for all Irving residents to participate and enjoy the value of trees.

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Irving, Texas – TREE CITY USA since 2009

about this guide

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The City of Irving and Irving Tree Board thank the following contributors to the Irving Tree Guide:

This booklet utilizes information and guidelines from the International Society of Arboriculture.

All drawings of trees are provided by Robert O’Brien, www.treeguides.com

Photos of root problems were provided by Gary J. Johnson, Asst. Extension Specialist, Urban and Community Forestry, University of Minnesota Extension.

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ON THE COVER: This Post Oak is located on MacArthur Blvd, north of Airport Freeway. It has a diameter of 32 inches, stands 38 feet tall, and its crown is 80 feet wide, making it easily seen on the west side of the road.
In Irving, we could probably all agree that our trees help to contribute something very valuable to our lives, and are an important component of the landscape. But the reason behind the value of trees can vary significantly depending on your point of view.

Trees help to make our city beautiful, and soften the harshness of our environment by adding color and texture to the landscape. This value of trees is not only aesthetic but also financial, as having trees in the landscape help increase home property values and economic stability by attracting businesses and customers to our community.

Trees are essential to our health and the health of our environment. Our local trees help to reduce storm water run-off and erosion management costs by intercepting, storing and using rainfall. They also aid in traffic control, helping to separate pedestrians and vehicles, providing safer walking conditions. We can save energy by planting trees, since our trees help reduce the need for cooling and heating. Our trees also provide shade to us as we enjoy our parks and open spaces. They also are one of our major sources of oxygen in the atmosphere, and help to remove carbon dioxide as well as filtering other components from our air, making it more breathable.

Trees are not only valuable to humans, but are a critical component of the urban ecosystem. They provide habitat for many species of birds, fish and mammals, and other wildlife, large and small. These animals in our urban landscape can then provide us with additional ecosystem services, such as aerating our soil, and controlling pests.

Finally, trees have a positive effect on people — they make us feel happy and connected with nature, they reduce stress, they help us recover from illness faster, and they restore our spirits. The trees of Irving are some of our oldest living residents, and tell a story about our city’s past. Trees also help shape our future—participating in a tree planting activity can bring the community together in appreciation of one another and allow us to further enhance our environment and our city.

In the City of Irving, trees are not only part of our environment, but they are a part of our history.

Crown/Canopy: Made up of leaves that absorb carbon dioxide and produce energy through photosynthesis. Leaves, branches, limbs; make food for tree. The leaves release oxygen as a byproduct. Leaves require sunlight, nutrients, and water to produce energy in the form of sugars and starches/carbohydrates for the tree.

Trunk: Made up of heartwood (center), sapwood (encases the heartwood), and bark (outermost ring). The heartwood and sapwood serve functions similar to human bone, providing structure and storage for carbohydrates. Sapwood also contains the vascular system and acts as the “blood vessels” of the tree. Provides structure like bone and moves water and nutrients like blood vessels. From the innermost layers outward, sapwood is arranged with phloem, cambium, and xylem. The phloem transports carbohydrates from the canopy downward while the xylem moves nutrients and water from the roots upward to the leaves. The cambium separates these two layers and its growth outward is what causes trees to grow in diameter and have growth rings.

Roots: The root system is made up of larger structural roots that sink deeper in the soil and provide anchorage as well as finer fibrous roots that absorb nutrients and water. Roots absorb nutrients and water and provide anchorage to hold tree upright. Root tissue is different from trunk tissue and the two types do not fuse even though they are structured similarly. Roots are much more efficient at regulating water, but do have to respire much like human lungs. This means they must have enough pore space in the soil to exchange air and not sit in water. Ninety percent of the tree’s root system is located in the top 18 inches of soil. (Exceptions to this pattern include post oaks or other trees growing in extremely porous sandy soils.)
Step 1: Prepare the tree

*For balled and burlapped trees:* Remove the top of the root ball packing and fold the burlap back from top of root ball. Cut any twine from around the trunk and remove soil from the top of the root ball until the root flare is found (figure 1). This will be the top of your root ball for measuring depth of the hole.

*For containerized trees:* Remove container then remove soil from the top of the root ball until the root flare is found. Be careful not to cut into the trunk. This will be the top of your of ball for measuring depth of the planting hole.

*Remove problem roots:* Remove all small roots above the main root system with hand pruners. Look for any roots that extend out but then turn to the side and back toward the trunk (figure 2). Prune these roots at the point where they turn.

Step 2: Prepare the hole for the tree

BEFORE YOU DIG, make sure to contact the local utilities and call (800) DIG-TESS or 811.

Measure the height of your remaining root ball—this is exactly how deep you should dig the hole.

Step 3: Place your tree

*For balled-and-burlapped trees:* Without loosening the root ball, cut, peel back and remove as much of the wire basket and burlap as possible. If the root ball starts to fall apart as you remove the burlap, backfill the hole with enough soil to stabilize it.

*For containerized trees:* After removing the tree from its container, loosen and pull any circular growing roots out away from the root ball. Then place the tree into the hole and ensure the trunk is straight and that the hole is the proper depth.

Step 4: Backfill, water, and mulch

Add the original soil back into the hole, breaking up large clods. Water root ball and entire backfilled area (figure 4).

Put a two-to-four inch layer of mulch over the backfilled area. Pull mulch away from the trunk so that none touches the bark.

Step 5: Stake, if necessary

If the root ball is unstable use one to three stakes attached low on the trunk.

If the trunk is bending use one stake attached higher (at least six inches below the first set of branches).
the right tree in the right place

Planting Distances From Distribution Lines

- **Tall Zone**: Tree heights taller than 40 feet
- **Medium Zone**: Tree heights less than 40 feet
- **Small Zone**: Tree heights 25 feet or less

Root Damage Zone

Underground Utilities
establishment and maintenance of trees

Watering: How much and how often

- How often you water depends on water uptake by plants, surface evaporation, and soil drainage.
- Check every other day in fast-draining soil and weekly in slow-draining soil for the first three years.
- Water the root ball and just beyond (figure 1).
- Remember tree roots need oxygen to live. Soil saturated with water for more than 24 hours can prevent roots from getting oxygen. Watering too much is as dangerous as watering too little.

Mulching

- Maintain a ring of organic mulch around the tree, the wider the better (figure 2). Organic material like wood chips and leaves are best. Remember to pull the mulch away from the base of the tree.
- Check and maintain mulch ring yearly.
- There should never be more than four inches of mulch at any one time. Mulch becomes soil and too much can prevent oxygen from reaching the roots.

Fertilizing

- Apply fertilizers only if a soil test shows nutrient deficiencies, or if it is recommended by an arborist.
- Follow all fertilizer application directions. Overdosing with fertilizers can harm or kill your tree.
- Do not apply “weed and feed” to your lawn, since it might injure or kill your tree.

Pruning

- The main reasons to prune trees are safety, health, and esthetics.
- Remember, electricity flows through branches, ladders and trees do not mix, and chainsaws cut. It is always recommended to hire an arborist for all pruning jobs.

Checking tree health

- Check your trees yearly for any changes.
- Look to see if new growth has changed from year to year.
- Inspect branch tips or tree top.
- Inspect size, color, and distribution of leaves.
- Check trunk and base for any damage.

proper tree pruning

Branches smaller than one inch in diameter can be removed with bypass loppers. Larger branches should be removed with a handsaw or chainsaw using the three-cut method, which is designed to prevent the limb from tearing back or splitting the trunk as it is removed.

Where a branch attaches to a larger branch or trunk, it forms a union called the branch collar, which sometimes appears as a small swelling at the base of the branch.

1. Undercut the limb 8 to 12 inches from the branch collar.
2. Make the second cut from the top, beyond the first cut, all the way through the branch. If the branch falls before the cut is finished, the undercut will stop the bark from tearing.
3. The last cut should be as close to the branch collar as possible without cutting into it. It is often easier to make the last cut from the bottom upward.
threats to Irving trees

Rarely does one single thing kill a tree. Usually the cumulative effect of several stresses lead to the tree’s death. For example, a tree has its trunk and root system damaged during construction of a house; the tree is unable to efficiently absorb and transport water and nutrients causing the canopy to wilt slightly; in response to the “sick tree” the homeowner waters the tree more frequently which allows phytophthora root rot populations to explode and attack the root system. At this point the tree is almost dead and releasing pheromones which attract borers that finally kill the tree.

Trees do not heal the way humans do. Humans heal by creating new tissue. Trees compartmentalize all damage, much the way submarines seal off leaking areas of the ship by closing water-tight doors. This is an important distinction since it means that any damage, no matter how minor, will be present in that tree for the rest of its life and that portion of the tree cannot be used again. A young tree can compartmentalize and by-pass the damaged portion easily, but much like an elderly person, a mature tree has more difficulty healing a wound. Even if the tree overcomes the damage, it has to use resources and energy normally designated for growth or defense to compartmentalize the wound.

Typical threats to tree health in Irving include construction damage, improper pruning, oak wilt, phytophthora root rot, and scale insects.

Construction Damage: The root system beneath the canopy of the tree should be protected from soil compaction during construction with a sturdy fence. Compaction can be caused by humans, vehicles/machinery, and building materials. A layer of mulch should be applied to the protected root zone at a depth of two to 4 inches. No roots can be cut within the critical root zone (CRZ) without risking the stability of the tree. The CRZ has a radius 3 to 5 times the trunk DBH (diameter at 4.5 ft. above grade). If the entire area under the canopy cannot be protected, the protection zone should be extended where possible to compensate, but the entire CRZ must be protected.

Improper Pruning: All trees must be pruned in accordance with ANSI A300 pruning standards. A tree cannot have more than 25% of live canopy removed within one growing season. If the crown is thinned it should be done so evenly throughout the crown, not just in the center. Stripping out the growth in the center is called “lion’s tailing” and is hazardous to the health of the tree. A ratio of ¼ trunk to ½ canopy should be maintained even when raising the canopy. Cuts along the trunk should be made outside the swollen branch collar where the limb grows out of the trunk. Reduction of stem/limb height or spread should be accomplished by cutting back to a lateral branch that is at least ¾ the diameter of the limb being cut.

Oak Wilt: Very little scientific research has been done on oak wilt so as a result there is a lot of misconception and fear-driven belief about the disease. Oak wilt is a fungal pathogen that is quite lethal to at least 20 species of oak. Susceptibility varies among oaks species, but generally the species in the red oak group are most sensitive. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus (Ceratocystis fagacearum). This pathogen grows in the vascular system, where it inhibits water and nutrient flow from the roots to the crown of the tree. Symptoms of this disease vary greatly among species and location. Trees in the red oak group frequently die within a year of infection. Leaves generally turn dull green or tan along the margins and display an abrupt change from healthy to dying tissue. Discoloration, chlorosis (yellowing) and necrosis (dead tissue)along the leaf veins can accompany these symptoms. This is the unique sign of infection on the live oak species (often referred to as “tiger striping”) and is the best way to visually indentify oak wilt on live oak. Leaves will wilt and drop from the trees as these symptoms begin to appear, but some may drop when they are still green. Brown streaks may develop in the sapwood of infected trees as a result of the plugging and death of the vascular system cells. If a tree is suspected to be infected with oak wilt an ISA Certified Arborist and preferably Certified Texas Oak Wilt Specialist should be consulted. Refer to the oak wilt websites listed in the back of the booklet.

Phytophthora Root Rot: Phytophthora is present in most urban soils, but is more common in poorly drained ones such as those found natively in north Irving, on newly developed sites, or that have been compacted from construction activities. The disease thrives in warm soils that are overly saturated and will actually move through free standing water. Phytophthora is lethal to many woody plant species. Symptoms include sudden wilt or death of major limbs or sections of canopy without losing leaves. Leaves turn brown and dry out within a few days, but never fall off the tree. On infected roots, the outer sheath will slough off easily when pulled. While treatments are effective, they only offer temporary relief. The only lasting treatment is to correct the soil moisture issues. Watering deeply less frequently will allow the soil to dry out slightly and keep the phytophthora populations under better lasting control.

Scale Insects: Like most pests, scale alone are not lethal to trees. They are small insects that latch onto the surface of a stem or branch and resemble a clam, tortoise, or drop of confectionary sugar depending on the species. Since they suck nutrients and sugars from the vascular system of the tree much like a leech, severe infestations can reduce the tree’s ability to produce enough energy, making it more susceptible to other stresses. Recently, azalea bark scale (also called crape myrtle scale) has begun to attack crape myrtles throughout the Metroplex. People often first notice the sooty mold they produce because it turns the bark black, but the insect itself looks like a drop of confectionary sugar or white paint. They are a particularly aggressive species of scale and typically require treatment to reduce populations. In addition to traditional synthetic treatments, horticultural oils/soaps, lacewing larvae, and ladybugs can also be used to control them.
On the following pages you can learn about the 25 recommended trees for Irving and how to keep them in your landscape. Both common and botanical names are provided in order to help you find them in local nurseries. Each tree’s description includes whether it is evergreen (bearing leaves year-round) or deciduous (losing leaves in fall and winter), light and water requirements, preferred soils (north Irving clay, south Irving sandy clay, and/or creekside soils), and characteristics to help you choose the right tree.

**Irving’s 25 best trees**

**Small Trees (to 25 feet)**
1. Roughleaf Dogwood
2. Crape Myrtle
3. Yaupon Holly
4. Redbud
5. Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum
6. Desert Willow
7. Possumhaw Holly
8. Mexican Plum

**Medium Trees (25 to 40 feet)**
9. Texas Ash
10. Eastern Red Cedar
11. Eve’s Necklace
12. Honey Mesquite
13. Shantung Maple
14. Lacey Oak

**Large Trees (40 feet +)**
15. Southern Live Oak
16. Lacebark Elm
17. Magnolia
18. Chinquapin Oak
19. Blackjack Oak
20. Bur Oak
21. Post Oak
22. Cedar Elm
23. Bald or Pond Cypress
24. Shumard Red Oak
25. Texas Pecan
Roughleaf Dogwood

**Botanical name:** *Cornus drummondii*
**Light required:** Medium sun, some shade
**Water demand:** Low, highly drought-resistant
**Soil type:** South Irving
**Deciduous**

**Notes:** Unlike its relative the Flowering Dogwood, the Roughleaf Dogwood is more adapted to a dry climate, and has a less showy yellow flower and a hard white fruit. The flowers are attractive to pollinators, and the leaves turn a showy red color in the fall.

Crape Myrtle

**Botanical name:** *Lagerstroemia indica*
**Light required:** Full sun
**Water demand:** Low, highly drought-resistant
**Soil type:** North and South Irving
**Deciduous**

**Notes:** This tree species has numerous different varieties and have very large and showy blooms that occur in white, pink, red, or purple. In 1981 the Crape Myrtle was designated as the “official plant” of the City of Irving.
Yaupon Holly

**Botanical name:** *Ilex vomitoria*

**Light required:** Medium sun, some shade

**Water demand:** Low to medium

**Soil type:** North and South Irving, creeksides

**Evergreen**

**Notes:** Like other holly species, the Yaupon Holly produces numerous red berries in the wintertime that contrast nicely with the evergreen foliage. The spiky leaves also make for very nice natural protective hedges near windows. However, it is recommended that these trees receive at least half a day of sun on a regular basis.

Redbud

**Botanical name:** *Cercis canadensis*

**Light required:** Medium sun, some shade

**Water demand:** Low

**Soil type:** North and South Irving

**Deciduous**

**Notes:** The Redbud is known for its showy pinkish-purple flowers that appear in March and April, and are one of our first signs of spring. These flowers are an important nectar source for butterflies, bees, and moths. These trees are in the legume (bean) family, and will produce a short pod in the fall.
**Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum**

**Botanical name:** *Viburnum rufidulum*
**Light required:** Shade
**Water demand:** Low
**Soil type:** North and South Irving
**Deciduous**

**Notes:** Many people may not be familiar with this species, but it can be a popular species for understory plantings. This tree produces a blue fruit popular with wildlife in the summer and can be popular with wildlife.

**Desert Willow**

**Botanical name:** *Chilopsis linearis*
**Light required:** Full sun
**Water demand:** Low, highly drought-resistant
**Soil type:** North and South Irving
**Deciduous**

**Notes:** The Desert Willow has a very light, thin leaf and produces showy funnel-shaped flowers in dark pink and purple. It can grow very rapidly, and grows very well from cuttings. Desert Willow does extremely well during the heat of the summer in Texas.
small trees (less than 25 feet at maturity)

**Possumhaw Holly**

**Botanical name:** *Ilex decidua*
**Light required:** Medium sun, some shade
**Water demand:** Medium
**Soil type:** South Irving
**Deciduous**

**Notes:** Possumhaw Holly does lose its leaves during winter, unlike many other familiar hollies. The leaves are oval and less spiky than other traditional hollies as well. Possumhaw fruits are a bright and showy red, and are very attractive to songbirds and mammals.

**Mexican Plum**

**Botanical name:** *Prunus mexicana*
**Light required:** Medium sun, some shade
**Water demand:** Low to medium
**Soil type:** North and South Irving
**Deciduous**

**Notes:** The Mexican Plum is known for having very fragrant and showy flowers that appear during the spring months, and the plums ripen from July to September. The leaves turn a very showy yellow in the fall, offsetting the twisted dark trunks.
Texas Ash

Botanical name: *Fraxinus texensis*
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Medium
Soil type: North and South Irving, creeksides
Deciduous

Notes: The Texas Ash is a widely-distributed ash that prefers moist habitat, but under the right conditions can grow very quickly. It is also a very hardy species and can survive extreme cold and heat. Ash has been useful to humans for making guitars, and is often known for its clusters of elongated seeds called samaras.

Eastern Red Cedar

Botanical name: *Juniperus virginiana*
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Low, highly drought-resistant
Soil type: North and South Irving
Evergreen

Notes: Eastern Red Cedar is a compact tree with scale-like foliage and branches that provide good shelter for wildlife and berries for bird forage during winter. Cedar wood is insect-resistant, and was highly prized for use as fenceposts, furniture, and cabin-building in the American West.
medium trees (25 to 40 feet at maturity)

Eve’s Necklace
Botanical name: *Sophora affinis*
Light required: Sun and shade
Water demand: Low, highly drought-resistant
Soil type: North and South Irving
Deciduous
Notes: Eve’s Necklace is named for its black seed pods that resemble a string of beads. In spring it produces large clusters of pink flowers that are attractive to pollinators. As a member of the legume family this tree grows well in marginal soil conditions and has associated root nodules that help provide the plant with nitrogen.

Honey Mesquite
Botanical name: *Prosopis glandulosa*
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Low
Soil type: North and South Irving
Deciduous
Notes: The Mesquite came to the Dallas-Fort Worth area with the cattle drives, and has continued to thrive in the dry soils and open areas of the region. Mesquite branches are thorny, with thin feathery compound leaves that hang gracefully, and deep taproots allowing them continued access to water sources. The wood of this tree has been popularized as firewood.
**medium trees (25 to 40 feet at maturity)**

**Shantung Maple**
- **Botanical name:** *Acer truncatum*
- **Light required:** Sun and some shade
- **Water demand:** Low, highly drought-resistant
- **Soil type:** North and South Irving
- **Deciduous**

**Notes:** The Shantung Maple is a tough landscape tree that produces a beautiful red and orange foliage in the fall. The leaves are similar to Japanese maples, but the tree itself is much hardier for the Texas climate. It is considered a Texas Superstar Tree by Texas A&M University.

**Lacey Oak**
- **Botanical name:** *Quercus laceyi*
- **Light required:** Full sun
- **Water demand:** Low to medium
- **Soil type:** North and South Irving
- **Deciduous**

**Notes:** Depending on water availability this oak can grow either as a tree (on good sites) or a shrub (on poor sites). It is also considered more resistant to oak wilt than other oak species of the region.
Southern Live Oak

**Botanical name:** *Quercus virginiana*

**Light required:** Full sun

**Water demand:** Medium

**Soil type:** North and South Irving, creeksides

**Evergreen**

**Notes:** Unlike other oaks, the Live Oak is semi-evergreen, dropping most of its leaves in early spring and shedding damaged leaves throughout the year. It is more adapted to coastal regions, so may require soils with greater moisture. Some varieties that are more drought tolerant can be found in nurseries. They are commonly planted on road medians and in neighborhoods, but can be damaged by cold and heavy ice and snow.

Lacebark Elm

**Botanical name:** *Ulmus parvifolia*

**Light required:** Full sun

**Water demand:** Low, highly drought-resistant

**Soil type:** North and South Irving

**Deciduous**

**Notes:** The Lacebark Elm is very adaptable as a landscape tree, and can live in extreme conditions such as parking lots and in planters. It is also highly pest-resistant, and is less susceptible to invasion by beetles and diseases that often occur in elms.
large trees (greater than 40 feet at maturity)

**Magnolia**

*Botanical name:* Magnolia grandiflora  
*Light required:* Full sun  
*Water demand:* High  
*Soil type:* South Irving  
*Evergreen*

**Notes:** The Magnolia is not necessarily as adapted to the Dallas-Fort Worth area as other trees, and is more common to the southeastern U.S. and the Texas coastal plain and lowlands. Under the right conditions it can be fast-growing, and produce a very fragrant white flower. However, care must be taken to manage the fallen leaves to enhance their decomposition and return the nutrients to the soil.

**Chinquapin Oak**

*Botanical name:* Quercus muehlenbergii  
*Light required:* Full sun  
*Water demand:* Low  
*Soil type:* North and South Irving  
*Deciduous*

**Notes:** The Chinquapin Oak can be fast-growing, and is well-adapted to a variety of soil types but does best in soils that are mildly alkaline and well-drained. Leaves are broad and shiny green with shallow lobes on the leaf margins.
Purple Oak

Botanical name: Quercus marilandica
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Low, highly drought-resistant
Soil type: North and South Irving
Deciduous

Notes: This oak is often colonial and grows well in clusters alongside post oaks and red oaks interspersed with prairie pockets. This tree is common to the Texas cross timbers habitat and grows slowly in a dry climate. The Blackjack Oak produces dark red foliage during the fall and is a rewarding shade tree once it reaches full size.


Bur Oak

Botanical name: Quercus macrocarpa
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Medium
Soil type: North Irving, creeksides
Deciduous

Notes: The acorns of the Bur Oak are the largest of all native oaks, and produce a fringed and recognizable cap and large seed. Bur Oaks can be very tall at maturity, and can have very broad leaves that produce valuable shade.

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large trees (greater than 40 feet at maturity)
Post Oak

Botanical name: Quercus stellata
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Low
Soil type: North and South Irving
Deciduous

Notes: Post Oaks are among Irving’s oldest residents, with many of the trees in the Heritage District reaching over 100 years of age and large sizes. They can be highly drought-resistant, although they can tolerate wetter soils in some conditions. These trees are slow-growing, but will produce significant shade at maturity.

Cedar Elm

Botanical name: Ulmus crassifolia
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Low to medium
Soil type: North and South Irving, creeksides
Deciduous

Notes: The Cedar Elm is the most widespread of all native elms, and can grow well in a variety of soil types. Foliage of this tree is very thick and glossy green, and provides useful shade in yards and was widely planted in older neighborhoods throughout Irving. The foliage turns golden yellow in the fall.
large trees (greater than 40 feet at maturity)

Bald or Pond Cypress
Botanical name: Taxodium distichum or ascendens  
Light required: Full sun  
Water demand: High  
Soil type: North and South Irving, creeksides  
Evergreen
Notes: Cypress trees require significant water to grow, and are typically more successful around ponds and waterways. Under very wet conditions they will produce “knees,” aboveground roots that enable gas exchange in wet soils. Although they are normally evergreen they may turn brown and lose their leaves when water stressed or during cold winters.

Shumard Red Oak
Botanical name: Quercus shumardii  
Light required: Full sun  
Water demand: Low to medium  
Soil type: North and South Irving, creeksides  
Deciduous
Notes: Shumard Red Oaks are very typical oaks, with bristle-tipped teeth and brilliant red and yellow foliage in the fall, with color lasting late into the winter. Unlike the Post Oak and Blackjack Oak, the Red Oak prefers to grow further apart. Planting them with greater spacing also helps to prevent the likelihood of them transmitting oak wilt.
Texas Pecan

Botanical name: *Carya illinoiensis*
Light required: Full sun
Water demand: Medium
Soil type: North and South Irving, creeksides
Deciduous

Notes: The Pecan is the state tree of Texas, and is a valuable member of the tree communities of the region. It is an excellent nut and shade tree, and produces bring yellow foliage during the fall. Although it can be slow-growing it can be hardy and long-lasting and allow harvest of the nuts over many seasons.

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on hiring an arborist

Given the value of trees to our homes, our health, and our community, it is important to provide the right kind of care for them. An arborist is your partner in providing this care.

**Why hire an arborist?** An arborist is someone with a scientifically-based knowledge of trees. Arborists are familiar with the needs of trees, and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. While anyone might have the knowledge to use a chainsaw or say they can care for your trees, it is an arborist who will do it correctly with the least amount of damage, risk and long-term cost. You wouldn’t hire someone untrained or uncertified to work on your electrical system or repair your roof, so you should take the same approach when it comes to your trees.

**When should you hire an arborist?** A typical homeowner can manage tree issues when they occur anywhere between one and six feet of tree height. However, if your tree care requires digging around roots or getting out the ladder to reach the high branches, it is better to trust this to an arborist. In addition, if your tree problem involves electrical wires (regardless of where it occurs), your arborist will be better-equipped to deal with the problem.

**What should you look for when hiring an arborist?** As with any contractor you hire there are some things that are essential, while others may be nice to have but are not necessarily required.

In terms of the “must-haves”, you should only hire an arborist that is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Certification provides you with assurances that your arborist has sufficient knowledge and competence to provide proper tree care. Additionally your arborist should be bonded and insured, to include workman’s compensation insurance for all of the workers on his or her team.

Some of the qualifications that are nice to have in your arborist are degrees in an applicable field such as horticulture or forestry. Your ISA-certified arborist may also be a Board Certified Master Arborist (BCMA), which means that he or she has reached the pinnacle of the profession, and is at a higher level than a certified arborist. Finally, make sure that any arborist you hire has references that you can consult. A certified arborist is important, but you also want to know from his or her clients that your arborist will provide quality performance and be able to serve your needs.

**How do you find an ISA-certified arborist?** The International Society of Arboriculture has a website to help you search for an arborist in your area or to verify the certification of your arborist. Visit their website at [www.isa-arbor.com/faca/findArborist.aspx](http://www.isa-arbor.com/faca/findArborist.aspx), or call them at (888) 472-8733. You can also consult the American Society of Consulting Arborists at [www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org), or by phone at (301) 947-0483.
additional resources for Texas trees

How do I choose the right tree and care for it properly?
- The Texas Tree Planting Guide and Tree Selector - texastreeplanting.tamu.edu
- Trees are Good - www.treesaregood.com
- The Arbor Day Tree Guide - www.arborday.org/treeguide
- Trees of Texas - texastreeid.tamu.edu

How can I learn more about trees and their importance in the urban forest?
- Botanical Research Institute of Texas - www.brit.org
- Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council - www.ctufc.org
- Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council - www.tbufc.org
- Arbor Day Foundation - www.arborday.org
- Texas Tree Trails, a geographic guide to Texas’ significant trees - www.texastreetrails.org
- The Texas Trees Foundation - www.texastreesfoundation.org
- Big Tree Registry - txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1336
- Famous Trees of Texas - famoustreesoftexas.tamu.edu/introduction.aspx

Where can I find a tree care professional?
- Tree Care Industry Association - www.treecareindustry.org
- International Society of Arboriculture - www.isa-arbor.com
- Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture - www.isatexas.com

What might be wrong with my trees?
- Texas Oak Wilt Information Partnership - www.texasoakwilt.org