Trees for North Texas
The Many Benefits of Trees

Mature native and adapted trees are one of the most valuable components of a landscape, whether for their aesthetic beauty or the numerous economic and environmental benefits they provide.

Trees
- Increase property values
- Serve as visual, noise, and wind screens
- Clean air
- Provide oxygen
- Cool surrounding areas (including your home)
- Reduce utility bills!
- Can help you save water
- Help prevent water pollution
- Help prevent soil erosion and control flooding
- Provide wildlife food and habitat

Selecting Native or Adapted Trees
Native and adapted plants are the ideal choice for a beautiful water efficient landscape. Trees of varied structure, texture, and color can suit well-manicured and naturalistic landscape designs alike.

A growing number of Texans are looking to incorporate more native and better-adapted trees into their home or business landscape for a variety of reasons:
- Drought tolerance
- Heat tolerance
- Lower water use
- Lower fertilizer use
- Fewer pesticides needed

When selecting the right tree for your property, you might also want to consider:
- Growth potential
- Shape
- Function
- Water requirements (some use even less than others)
- Pest resistance
- Longevity (How long do they typically live?)
- Growth rate
- Is it deciduous (loses its leaves) or evergreen?
- Do you want an ornamental tree or a shade tree?

Plant Spacing and Placement
“Right Plant, Right place”

A healthy native or adapted tree is a valuable asset, but to ensure the best success, it should be planted properly and in the right place depending on the specific requirements for each plant.
- Read the plant tag!
- Pay close attention to hardiness, light requirement, sizing, and spacing.
- Proper spacing is even more important when considering planting medium to large tree species and their growth potential. Be mindful so the tree you select will not encroach on power lines or other problem areas as it matures.

Tree Selection

What to Look for

- Single trunk or leader
- Trunk free of wounds
- Trunk flare should be obvious
- Roots should fill the pot but not be circling. Check by inspecting root ball out of the pot.

What to Avoid

- Undersized — yellow leaves
- Multiple trunks or “V” shaped trees
- Trees with trunk wounds
- Weeds growing out of pot
- Roots growing out of pot (tree has been in pot too long)
- Roots circling the pot. Check by inspecting root ball out of the pot.
Watering Trees

Water is the most limiting factor for tree growth and overall health. The amount of water used in irrigation depends on soil texture, structure, temperatures, and the amount and timing of recent rain events. Trees planted in heavier clay soils with greater water-holding capacity will require less water. Over-watering these sites often leads to anaerobic soil conditions, leading to root diseases or even death.

Supplemental watering should be part of your tree maintenance plan during periods without rainfall. Drought conditions can contribute to decline, making trees more susceptible to other pest problems. Irrigation systems designed to water turf MAY NOT sufficiently water your trees, and trees MAY require additional watering methods. Lawns can be replaced in a matter of days, but a 20-year old tree may never be truly replaced!

Supplemental irrigation should only begin when soil moisture is low. If rain events are frequent and heavy during the growing season, little supplemental irrigation will be necessary. The most efficient method to water trees is with a soaker hose or drip irrigation

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Should I Stake my New Tree

Staking is a technique used to protect, anchor, and support recently transplanted trees until the roots grow enough to anchor the tree.

Research shows:
- Most young trees do not require staking.
- Most young trees grow stronger trunk and roots without staking.
- Trunk movement encourages better trunk taper and stronger root system.

When to Stake Trees:
- High wind conditions
- Very large tree size
- Fall-planted evergreens
- Very weak trunk
- High population pressure

Don’t stake unless you have to. Remove stakes and ties within 1 year. Use flexible ties with a broad smooth surface (canvas.)
Understanding Plant Lighting under Trees

The amount and quality of light on your property can change over time, especially in landscapes with maturing trees and large shrubs, new buildings, or even new fences. While established turfgrass and other sun-loving plants might grow successfully in these areas for a while, many times we start to see them decline, becoming thinner and less dense as the shade begins to encroach. Over-watering and/or over-fertilizing are often the response in these lower light situations. These poor management practices can be even more detrimental to your landscape and the environment in the long run.

Advantages to Gardening under Shade Trees

There are actually quite a few ways gardening under mature trees can enhance your landscape!

Save Water!
We see less water loss in shadier areas, both in the plants themselves with slower transpiration rates and in the soil moisture around them showing less evaporation.

Added Interest
The tree, shrub building, or fence should be considered an asset, serving as backdrops or structural focal points that can complement or even enhance your plantings.

Moderate Temperatures
Shade gardens are the perfect place to sit and relax or entertain guests, especially during the summer months in North Texas!

Increase your plant pallet
There is a whole new world of plant material that not only tolerates, but thrives, in the shade. These shade-loving plants vary tremendously in their forms, grow habits, foliage, and in the shape color of their blooms!

Trees for North Texas

Shade Trees
- Big Tooth Maple
- Caddo Maple
- Shantung Maple
- Pecan
- Arizona Cypress
- Easter Red Cedar
- Goldenrain Tree
- Southern Magnolia
- Eldarica Pine
- Chinese Pistache
- White Oak
- Red Oak
- Lacey Oak
- Bur Oak
- Chinquapin Oak
- Post Oak
- Live Oak
- Soapberry
- American Elm
- Cedar Elm
- Lacebark Elm

Ornamental Trees
- Japanese Maple Tree
- Red Buckeye
- Redbud-Many Varieties
- Desert Willow
- Smoketree
- Hawthorne
- Texas Persimmon
- Loquat
- Possumhaw Holly
- Yaupon Holly
- Blue Point Juniper
- Hollywood Juniper
- Wichita Blue Juniper
- Crape Myrtle
- Goldenball Leadtree
- Deciduous Magnolia
- Wax Myrtle
- Japanese Black Pine
- Honey Mesquite
- Cherry Laurel
- Pomegranate
- Prairie Flameleaf Sumac
- Eve’s Necklace
- Texas Mountain Laurel
- Buckeye
- Vitex
- Chitalpa