Hardy Trees for Texas

Type	Size	Sun	Evergreen?	Soil	Toxic?	Water Requirements	Growth Rate	Native?
American Fringetree	Small	Full to part	no	well-drained	no	low	slow	yes
Arizona Cypress	Medium	Full	yes	well-drained	yes	low	moderate	yes
Bald Cypress	Large	Full to part	no	any	no	high	fast	yes
Bur Oak	Large	Full	no	any	yes	moderate	slow	yes
Cedar Elm	Large	Full to part	no	any	no	moderate	moderate	yes
Crape Myrtle - all	Small to Medium	Full	no	any	no	low to moderate	moderate	no
Chinese Pistache	Medium	Full	no	any	yes	moderate	moderate	no
Chinquapin Oak	Large	Full	no	well-drained	yes	moderate	moderate	yes
Desert Willow	Small	Full	no	well-drained	no	low	slow	yes
Drummond Maple	Large	Full	no	any	YES	moderate	moderate	yes
Ginkgo	Large	Full	no	well-drained	no	moderate	slow	no
Lacey Oak	Medium	Full	no	well-drained	yes	low	slow	yes
Live Oak	Large	Full	yes	any	yes	moderate	slow	yes
Loblolly Pine	Large	Full	yes	well-drained	yes	moderate	fast	yes
Mexican Buckeye	small	Shade	no	well-drained	yes	low	slow	yes
Mexican Plum	small	Full to Part	no	well-drained	yes	low	slow	yes
Mexican Sycamore	Large	Full	no	any	yes	moderate	fast	yes
Montezuma Cypress	Large	Full to part	semi	any	no	moderate	fast	yes
Mountain Laurel	Small	Full	yes	well-drained	yes	low	slow	yes
Redbud	Small	Full to part	no	well-drained	no	low	slow	yes
Retama	Small	Full	no	well-drained	yes	low	moderate	yes
Texas Ash	Medium	Full	no	any	no	moderate	moderate	yes
Texas Red Oak	Large	Full	no	well-drained	yes	moderate	moderate	yes
Vitex	Small	Full	no	well-drained	yes	low	moderate	yes
Wax Myrtle	Small	Full to part	yes	any	no	moderate	moderate	yes
Western Soapberry	Small	Full to part	no	any	yes	low	slow	yes
Yaupon	Small	Full to part	yes	any	yes	low	slow	yes

Hardiest Texas Shrubs and Perennials
(based on both drought and freeze tolerance in recent years)

Evergreen Shrubs and Small Hedges

Dwarf Yaupon, Dwarf Wax Myrtle, Dwarf Burford Holly, Sprinter Boxwood, Barberry, Dwarf Nandina "Gulfstream" , Loropetalum, Sunshine Ligustrum, Elaeagnus, Texas Sage

Perennials

Artemisia, Blanketflower, Blue Daze Evolvus, Coneflower, Coreopsis, Greggii Salvia (all colors are hardy but red has the best cold tolerance), Lantana (specifically Native Texas or Confetti varieties), Mexican Butterfly Weed, Plumbago, Rock Rose, Homestead Verbena, Pink or Purple Skullcap, Mealy Blue Sage, Texas Star Hibiscus, Flame Acanthus, Firecracker Plant, Turk's Cap, Katy Mexican Petunia

Deciduous Shrubs, Cacti, and Miscellaneous

Any variety of roses, Althea (Rose of Sharon), Red Yucca, Colorguard Yucca, Spineless Prickly Pear Cactus, Pink Muhly Grass, All peach, pear, plum, apple, nectarine, jujube and pomegranate trees, dewberry (blackberry) vines

Landscaping Design Tips

Before making your plan:

- Start small and grow as you go! All landscaping will add extra work to your lawn maintenance schedule.

- What is the sun exposure of the area to be landscaped? This is crucial to know when selecting your plants. Six hours of direct sun per day is considered full sun.

- Determine what goals you wish to accomplish with your landscaping.
    - Wind block or visual screen
    - Selling a property / curb appeal
    - Attracting pollinators
    - Food production
    - Erosion control / water redirection
    - Beautification & aesthetics

- Any pets, horses, or livestock? Be sure to eliminate any poisonous plants from your list before getting started!

- Are you sensitive to fragrances, or do you have outdoor allergies? Be sure to avoid any plants that are highly fragrant or produce a lot of pollen.

- Do you have deer, armadillos, or other wildlife in your area to contend with? Some fragrant plants and herbs are less attractive to deer. Gravel mulch can keep armadillos from rooting around your plants and making a mess.

Creating your design:

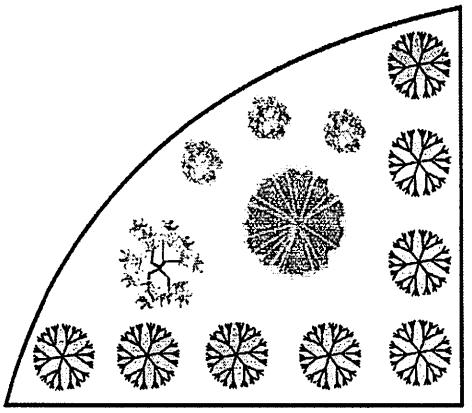
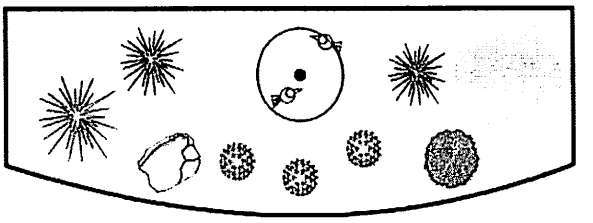
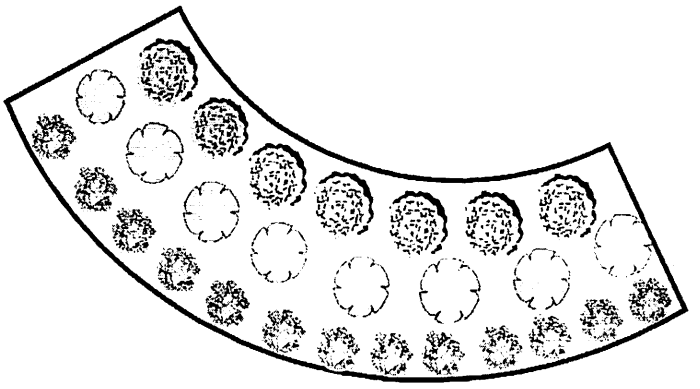
- To keep your landscape looking lush year-round, use a mixture of evergreens and perennials. Evergreens will anchor your landscape and keep it full when the perennials die back. Perennials will add color, texture and interest.

- Do you like mass plantings or do you prefer a lot of variety? Using a mixture of textures or colors in your mass plantings can add so much interest.

Creating your design, continued:

- Keep in mind what the mature size of each plant will be. You can bonzai any plant to the desired size, but plants will live longer and be healthier if they don't have most of their new growth removed regularly!

- Hardscapes are a powerful design tool. Chopped stone, gravel, boulders, contrasting mulch colors, creative flowerbed edging, pottery and metal art can add a lot of interest to your landscape with minimal maintenance.

- Is there a tree or shrub that is your very favorite? Consider planting one as a specimen and building your landscape around it.

- There are countless guidelines and schools of thought when it comes to landscape design, but there is no "wrong answer". If your landscape serves the purpose you want and is maintainable for you, it's a good landscape!