

Recommended Valley Trees Part 1

Montezuma Baldcypress or Ahuehete or Sabino (*Taxodium mucronatum*)

Growth: Fast, when young, slows with age getting to 45 f.

Leaves: Nearly evergreen half-inch long needles, no spines or claws.

Bark: Attractive, brownish-red, smooth to shallowly furrowed.

Sun: Full sun to partial shade.

Soil: Wet to medium dry, along resacas, tolerant to poorly drained areas.

Note: A rare tree, long-lived, majestic, highly recommended, good nest sites.

Black Willow or Sauz (*Salix nigra*)

Growth: Very fast, getting to 60 to 85 ft.

Leaves: Long, 3 inches, strap shaped, deciduous, no spines or claws.

Bark: Attractive dark-brown, shaggy and deeply-furrowed.

Sun: Full.

Soil: Wet, poorly drained, high water use.

Note: Native habitat river and resaca banks. Wood used for fuel, baskets, wicker furniture. Good cover for birds and browse for deer.

Coyote Willow or Sauz (*Salix exigua*)

Growth: Fast, getting to 20 ft.

Leaves: Long, 5 inches, strap shaped, deciduous, no spines or claws.

Bark: Gray and smooth.

Sun: Full.

Soil: Wet, poorly drained, high water use.

Note: A small tree, best used as a group planting along wet areas.

Live Oak or Encino (*Quercus virginiana*)

Growth: Medium to fast, getting to 30 to 60 ft., with a 30 to 60 ft. spread.

Leaves: Evergreen, dark-green, no spines or claws.

Bark: Dark-brown, deeply furrowed.

Sun: Full.

Soil: Sandy soil, can be in heavy clay if well drained. Medium water use.

Note: Provides deep shade, a long-lived tree. Acorns offer food for deer, parrots and javalina.

Granjeno or Spiny Hackberry (*Celtis pallida*)

Growth: Medium, getting to 10 to 20 ft.

Fruit: Edible, showy orange berries.

Bark: Mottled light-gray to reddish-brown with paired spines

Sun: Full sun to full shade.

Soil: All types, low water use, medium to well drained.

Note: Can be trimmed into a tall shrub or multi-trunk tree. Attractive to birds and other wildlife due to orange fruit. Discourages intruders due to spines on bark and twigs.

Sugar Hackberry or Palo Blanco or Texas Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*)

- Growth: Fast, 30 to 50 ft, can get to 100 ft., with a spread of 30 to 50 ft.
Fruit: Small maroon to purplish berry, no spines or claws.
Bark: Attractive, light-gray or whitish, with corky warts or ridges.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Tolerates a wide range, drought tolerant.
Note: Provides good, fast shade, food for birds, butterflies and deer and nest sites. Leaves sometimes turn yellow in fall.

Cedar Elm or Olmo (*Ulmus crassifolia*)

- Growth: Fast, 30 to 60 ft. and up to 80 ft., with an equally wide spread.
Leaves: Evergreen in mild winters, turning yellow to orange in fall, no spines.
Bark: Flat, scaly-ridged, light-brown.
Sun: Full to partial shade.
Soil: Many types, drought tolerant.
Note: Provides cover, nest sites and fruit. A little used wonderful tree.

Texas Ebony or Ebanó (*Pithecellobium ebanó*)

- Growth: Slow, to 30 ft., may get to 40 ft., with an equally wide spread.
Flowers: Creamy-white, fragrant, occurring after rains.
Leaves: Evergreen, dense, dark green, twigs have paired spines.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Any, prefers well drained, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Highly prized as a deep-shade tree, heart-wood used to make art objects, jewelry, fence posts and as fuel. Most valuable for cover, nest sites and food for bees.

Tenaza (*Pithecellobium pallens*)

- Growth: Slow, getting 10 to 20 ft., with a equally wide spread.
Flowers: Fragrant white, fluffy flowers in clusters; after rainfall.
Leaves: Airy, pale-green leaflets, paired straight spines on twigs and bark.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Loamy, well drained, medium water use, drought tolerant.
Note: A perfect tree to create light shade. Nice fragrance when in bloom.

Texas Huisache (*Acacia smallii*)

- Growth: Rapid, 15 to 30 ft., with equally wide spread.
Flowers: Very fragrant, bright golden round heads, December to April.
Leaves: Deciduous, gray-green leaflets with long, paired straight spines
Sun: Full.
Soil: Any, tolerant of poor to good drainage, drought tolerant.
Note: Showy, golden bloom signals the first sign of spring; pods used for ink, glue, bark for drying skins, and flowers for perfumes. Prune saplings to remove narrow crotch angles and twig girdlers.

Wright's Catclaw or Uno de Gato (*Acacia wrightii*)

Growth: Moderate, to 20 ft., can get to 30 ft.
Flowers: Creamy-white elongated clusters after rainfall.
Leaves: Pallid-green leaflets with catclaw-like prickles on twigs.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Any, good to moderate drainage, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Great honey source, feathery foliage provides filtered shade, the combination of twisted flat pods, fragrant flowers and airy foliage makes this a good tree for a small area.

Guajillo or Berlandier Acacia (*Acacia berlandieri*)

Growth: Medium to 15 ft.
Flowers: Fragrant, creamy-white, round head, spring and after rain.
Leaves: Deciduous, delicate, fern-like, twigs armed with short prickles.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Any, well drained, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Good tree to plant in a small area. Appreciated for light shade and fragrant blossoms.

Tepeguaje or Great Lead Tree (*Leucaena pulverulenta*)

Growth: Rapid, to 40 ft.
Flowers: Sweet scented, creamy white heads
Leaves: Lacy, light-green, no spines or claws
Sun: Full sun.
Soil: Any, poor to moderate drainage.
Note: Twig girdlers like this tree. Will freeze, wood is brittle, but otherwise a nice rapid growing tree for small places.

Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*)

Growth: Medium, to 20-30 ft., up to 50 ft., with a equally wide spread.
Flowers: Pale yellow elongated spikes, giving 4 to 9 inch long pods.
Leaves: Deciduous, delicate, airy foliage, paired spines on twigs.
Sun: Full sun.
Soil: Any, well drained, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Flowers produce great honey. Pods are food for many animals, birds and humans. Wood used for fence posts, furniture, flooring and art. A good ornamental asymmetrical landscape tree.

(Source: Native Trees of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification. Native Plant Project, P.O. Box 1433, Edinburg, TX 78540)

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