Recommended Valley Trees Part 1

Montezuma Baldcypress or Ahuehuete 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 Ebano  (*Pithecellobium ebano*)
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*)
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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