



Recommended Trees for the Houston Area

Trees play the most important role in a landscape. They determine what other plants should be planted by providing shade in particular areas. Trees can serve many other purposes as well. They may be used as screens to block out unsightly views, to provide protection from strong winds, to reduce noise from busy streets or to add privacy.

Trees are energy savers for the home when properly used. They can block out the hot summer sun

and then shed leaves in colder months to allow the sun to help warm the home. Planting trees can increase the value of property. Trees are also very appealing to the eye and for some they create a feeling of serenity. Trees are very important.

When choosing a tree, be sure of its purpose, then pick the tree that will do the best job. Consider the following characteristics suggested by Cornelius Texas Certified Nursery Professionals when choosing your tree:

- A Is the tree deciduous or ever green?
- B Does it grow slender and up right or wide and spreading?
- C How tall will it get?
- D How fast will it grow?
- E Does it flower and when?
- F Will it enhance the landscape?

Cornelius has provide the following chart to help you decide which tree is the right tree for you.

Name	Height	Spread	Flowers			Fall Color	Rate of Growth	Comments
			No/Yes	Color	Season			
Arizona Ash <i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	up to 60 ft.	40 ft. or more	No			Fair	Fast	Deciduous shade tree, provides very deep shade.
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	80 to 100 ft.	20 to 40 ft.	Yes			Fair	Fast	Deciduous, shade or ornamental tree, requires no pruning, tolerates wet areas
Bay, Loblolly <i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>	15 to 25 ft.	10 ft. or more	Yes	White	Sum. to Fall	Fair	Moderate	Deciduous, flowering tree, needs some shade, beautiful large white flowers
Camphor Tree <i>Camphora officinarum</i>	50 ft. or more	50 ft. or more	No			Fair to Good	Moderate	Evergreen, shade tree, develops strong structure with heavy trunks.
Chinese Tallow <i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Up to 30 ft.	Up to 30 ft.	No			Good	Fast	Deciduous, shade tree, tolerates almost any soil



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Chinese Tallow <i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Up to 30 ft.	Up to 30 ft.	No			Good	Fast	Deciduous, shade tree, tolerates almost any soil
Crab, Flowering <i>Malus</i> species	15 to 25 ft.	15 to 25 ft.	Yes	Red Pink White	Early Spring	Fair	Moderate	Deciduous, flowering tree, produces fruit. Eleyi and Hopa, two popular varieties.
Crepe Myrtle <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	6 to 15 ft.	6 to 15 ft.	Yes	Red Pink White Lav.	Summer	Fair to Good	Moderate	Deciduous, flowering tree, varieties available, attractive bark, spray with Benomyl to prevent powdery mildew.
Dogwood, Flowering <i>Cornus florida</i>	20 ft. or more	15 to 20 ft.	Yes	White Pink	Early Spring	Fair	Slow	Deciduous, flowering tree, needs well drained soil and plant in shade or semi-shade
Elm, Evergreen <i>Ulmus parvifloia</i> <i>sempervirens</i>	40 to 60 ft.	50 to 70 ft.	No			Fair	Fast	Semi-evergreen, shade tree, deep green leaves, excellent shade.
Jerusalem Thorn <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	25 to 35 ft.	25 to 35 ft.	Yes	Yellow	Spring and Summer	None	Moderate	Semi-evergreen, flowering and shade tree, native to Texas requires well darined soil.
Laurel, Texas Mountain <i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	15 to 35 ft.	10 to 20 ft.	Yes	Violet	Spring	None	Slow	Evergreen, flowering and ornamental tree, native to Texas, very fragrant blooms.
Loquat, Japanese <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	15 to 20 ft.	15 to 20 ft.	Yes	Beige	Fall	None	Moderate	Evergreen, ornamental tree, large dark green folige, bear plum-like edible fruit in late spring.
Magnolia, Majestic Beauty <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Majestic Beauty'	up to 50 ft.	30 ft. or more	Yes	White	Early Summer thru. Fall	None	Moderate	Evergreen, shade and flowering tree, uniform growth, extra large blooms (12" diameter) at 2 years old.
Magnolia, Pink <i>Magnolia soulangeana</i>	20 to 25 ft.	10 to 15 ft.	Yes	Purple/ Pink with white	Early Spring	Fair	Moderate	Deciduous, flowering tree, large bright green leaves, prune and feed after blooming.

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Magnolia, 'Russet Beauty' Magnolia grandiflora 'Russet Beauty'	Medium (too new to be exact.)	Probably 60% of height	Yes	White	Early Summer thru. Fall	None	Moderate	Evergreen, shade and flowering tree, compact appearance, good variety of limited space.
Magnolia, Samuel Sommer's Magnolia grandiflora 'Samuel Sommer's'	up to 80 ft.	40 ft. or more	Yes	White	Summer thru. Fall	None	Moderate	Evergreen, shade and flowering tree, vary large flowers (10' to 14" diameter) uniform growth.
Magnolia, Southern Magnolia grandiflora	up to 80 ft.	40 ft. or more	Yes	White	Early Summer thru. Fall	None	Slow to Moderate	Evergreen, shade and flowering tree, native to East Texas.
Magnolia, Sweet Bay Magnolia virginica	up to 50 ft.	25 ft. or more	Yes	White	Spring	Fair	Moderate	Evergreen, flowering tree, same flower as Southern Magnolia, but smaller.
Maidenhair Tree Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'	50 ft.	50 ft.	No			Good	Slow	Deciduous, ornamental and shade tree, long lived with strong wood and 'Autumn Gold' good for color.
Manna Gum Eucalyptus viminalis	up to 100 ft.	up to 50 ft.	No			None	Fast	Evergreen, ornamental tree, has pleasing scent, protect from severe freezes.
Maple, Scarlet Swamp Acer rubrum	up to 100 ft.	up to 40 ft.	Yes	Red	Early Spring	Good	Fast	Deciduous, shade tree, native to East Texas.
Maple, Silver Acer saccharum	40 to 100 ft.	40 to 100 ft.	No			Fair	Fast	Deciduous, shade tree, attractive green leaves with soft silver undersides.
Mimosa Albizzia julibrissin	20 ft. or more	20 ft. or more	Yes	Pink	Late Spring	Fair	Fast	Deciduous, shade, ornamental and flowering tree.
Oak, Shumard Quercus shumardii	40 ft. or more	30 ft. or more	No			Excellent	Slow to Moderate	Deciduous, shade tree, long-lived, large acorns, beautiful pyramid shape.
Oak, Southern Live Quercus virginiana	60 ft.	up to 120 ft.	No			None	Slow to Moderate	Evergreen, shade tree, long lived, strong wood, most attractive oak.
Oak, Texas Red Quercus texana	35 ft.	35 ft.	No			Good	Slow	Deciduous, shade tree, insect resistant, native to Texas.

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Oak, Water <i>Quercus nigra</i>	50 to 80 ft.	30 to 50 ft.	No			Good	Moderate	Deciduous, shade tree, long-lived insect resistant, native to East Texas.
Pear, Aristocrat <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	30 ft. or more	20 to 25 ft.	Yes	White	Spring	Excellent	Moderate to fast	Deciduous, flowering tree, smaller than Bradford, more spreading habit.
Pear, Bradford <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford'	30 ft. or more	20 to 25 ft.	Yes	White	Spring	Excellent	Moderate to fast	Deciduous, flowering tree, strong upright growth with excellent fall color.
Pear, Evergreen <i>Pyrus kawakami</i>	to 25 ft.	to 20 ft.	Yes	White	Spring	Fair	Moderate to fast	Semi-evergreen, ornamental and flowering tree, keep pruned to shape.
Pine, Japanese Black <i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	to 20 ft.	to 10 ft.	No			None	Slow	Evergreen, ornamental tree, irregular shape, use as accent plant, may be container grown as bonsai.
Pine, Loblolly <i>Pinus taeda</i>	40 to 100 ft.	15 to 30 ft.	No			None	Moderate	Evergreen, bushier than slash pine, more resistant to rust.
Pin, Slash <i>Pinus caribea</i>	55 to 80 ft.	15 to 30 ft.	No			None	Moderate to fast	Evergreen, shade tree, effective in groups, native to East Texas.
Plum, Purple-Leaf <i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	15 to 25 ft.	10 to 15 ft.	Yes	Purple Pink/White	Early Spring	Fair	Fast	Deciduous, flowering tree, large bright green leaves, prune and feed after blooming.
Rain Tree, Southern Golden <i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	40 to 60 ft.	40 to 50 ft.	Yes	Yellow	Late Summer	Fair	Fast	Deciduous, shade and flowering tree, flowers followed by showy, salmon colored pods.
Red Bud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	15 to 25 ft.	15 to 25 ft.	Yes	Wine Red	Early Spring	Fair	Slow to Moderate	Semi-evergreen, flowering and ornamental tree, attractive reddish-purple foliage, needs well drained soil.
Red Bud, 'Forest Pansy' <i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'	15 to 25 ft.	10 to 15 ft.	Yes	Wine Red	Early Spring	Good	Slow to Moderate	Deciduous, flowering tree, foliage is wine red through the season, smaller than common Red Bud.

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Red Bud, 'Oklahoma' Cercis canadensis 'Oklahoma'	15 to 20 ft.	10 to 15 ft.	Yes	Burgundy Red	Early Spring	Fair	Moderate	Deciduous, flowering tree, darker more robust bloomer than standard Red Bud, foliage is glossy, hardier to insects and diseases.
River Birch Betula nigra	50 ft. or more	30 ft. or more	No			Fair	Fast	Deciduous, ornamental tree, attractive peeling bark, needs adequate moisture, but a well drained soil.
River Birch, 'Heritage' Betula nigra 'Heritage'	50 ft.	30 ft.	No			Fair	Fast	Deciduous, 'Heritage' variety has larger leaves, whiter bark, and better borer resistance.
Silver Dollar Eucalyptus Eucalyptus cineria	20 to 50 ft.	20 to 30 ft.	No			None	Fast	Evergreen, ornamental tree, foliage may be dried and used in floral arrangements, pleasing scent.
Sweet Gum Tree Liquidambar styraciflua	up to 60 ft.	20 to 25 ft.	No			Excellent	Moderate	Deciduous, shade tree, pleasing symmetry, native to East Texas
Sweet Gum Tree 'Burgundy' Liquidambar styraciflua 'Burgundy'	40 to 50 ft.	25 ft.	No			Excellent	Moderate to fast	Burgundy, dark wine-colored fall color, more spreading shape at base.
Sweet Gum Tree 'Festival' Liquidambar styraciflua 'Festival'	up to 50 ft.	15 to 20 ft.	No			Excellent	Moderate to fast	Festival, most columnar of all varieties, fall colors include mostly peaches and yellows.
Sweet Gum Tree 'Palo Alto' Liquidambar styraciflua 'Palo Alto'	40 to 50 ft.	20 to 25 ft.	No			Excellent	Moderate to fast	Palo Alto, mostly yellows, reds in fall, more columnar than Burgundy.
Sycamore Tree Platanus occidentalis	40 to 80 ft.	30 to 40 ft.	No			Fair	Fast	Deciduous, shade tree, good shade, attractive peeling bark.
Weeping Mulberry Morus pendula	10 ft.	10 ft.	No			Fair	Slow	Deciduous, ornamental tree strong weeping branches which weep to the ground.
Weeping Willow Salix babylonica	30 to 50 ft.	30 to 50 ft.	No			Fair	Fast	Deciduous, shade or ornamental tree, tolerates wet areas, shape by regular pruning.