



Species Descriptions and Usage

The following is a list of information regarding trees and shrubs adapted for planting in Oklahoma. This list includes general information to aid in species selection for your conservation planting, based on your location and purpose. If you need more help, contact our offices and we will get a Service Forester in touch with you.

Name	Evergreen	Planting Conditions			Common Uses *			Height @	Notes
		Hardiness Zones	Moisture Zones	Tolerates Soil Type	Wind-break	Erosion Control	Wildlife	10 Years ----- Maturity	
Arborvitae <i>Thuja orientalis</i>	X	4-7	All	Dry, Clay	E	F	E	10-15' 30-45'	Hardy on Plains. Will not grow as tall as redcedar. Makes a good screen. Drought tolerant.
Ash, green <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>		2-9	E, C	Dry, Wet	E	G	G	20-30' 40-60'	Easy to transplant, strong wood and long lived. Tolerates drought, pH extremes, wind and periodic flooding. Good for wetlands and mine reclamation. Excellent food for water fowl.
Baldcypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>		5-10	All, but Panhandle	Heavy clay, silt and muck	F	G	G	15-25' 60-100'	Does best in moist conditions and acid soil. Can tolerate poorly drained soils and flooding. Very susceptible to fire but has few pests. Can't tolerate shallow, clay soils. Widely planted as urban tree.
Cedar, deodar <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	X	7-10	All	Most	E	F	G	10-15' 20-60'	This is a true cedar. Does not spread like eastern red cedar. It will become a stately, long lived tree. Its growth rate is moderate to rapid. It has no major pest problems.
Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i>		2-7	All	Dry, Sand, Clay	F	E	E	10-15' 10-15'	Readily root sprouts to form thickets. Avoid poor drainage. Multiple stems. Leaves and seed poisonous to stock and humans. Fruit good for birds and deer.
Currant, Indian <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>		2-7	All, but Panhandle	Most	G	G	E	2-6'	A deciduous shrub, native to most of Oklahoma. Has red fruit in the Fall which is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds.

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Cypress, Arizona <i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	X	7-9	C, W	Most	E	E	G	15-20' 25-50'	Very tolerant of hot, dry weather. Good tree for wildlife. Native to Arizona, but grows well in Oklahoma. Also planted for soil erosion control and Christmas trees.
Deodar Cedar <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	X	7-10	All	Most	E	F	G	10-15' 20-60'	This is a true cedar. Does not spread like Eastern redcedar. It will become a stately, long lived tree. Typically has drooping branches, a moderate growth rate. It has no major pest problems.
Dogwood, roughleaf <i>Cornus drummondii</i>		5-8	E, C	Semi-dry to moist	G	G	E	8-10' 8-10'	Excellent wildlife shrub. Good for erosion control on most sites. Thickets provide excellent habitat and food for birds and other animals.
Elm, lacebark <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>		4-10	All	All	E	G	G	15-20' 40-50'	Very tough and adaptable. Ideal middle row tree in a 3 row windbreak. Good for bees and nesting sites for wildlife. May sustain some damage from severe ice storms.
Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>		3-9	All	Most	E	G	E	15-20' 40-70'	Tolerant of various soils and rainfall conditions. Drought and wind resistant. Fruit is widely eaten by birds and mammals and remains on tree all winter. Best growth on well drained bottomlands.
Lilac, common <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>		3-9	All	Dry, Clay	E	F	F	10-15'	Long lived, extremely tough and adaptable. Good density, provides cover for many birds and mammals. Very cold and drought tolerant. Will grow almost anywhere.
Locust, black <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>		4-10	All	Poor, Alkaline	F	E	E	20-30' 35-40'	Will grow on most sites. Excellent fuelwood. Flowers favored for honey. Highly recommended for erosion control due to fibrous root system. Spreads readily. Legume.
Locust, honey <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>		3-8	All, but Panhandle	All	E	F	E	8-15' 20-50'	Excellent wildlife and windbreak tree. Has long thorns. Seed pods are consumed by livestock and wildlife. Likes moist soils but can grow on drier areas.

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Mulberry, red <i>Morus rubra</i>		4-9	E, C	Moist	E	G	G	15-30' 40-60'	Best on moist fertile soils. Fruit is sweet and edible. Favored fruit for wild turkeys and many songbirds. Moderately heavy decay resistant wood. Well suited for windbreaks and wildlife plantings.
Ninebark <i>Physocarpus spp.</i>		2-7	All	All	E	G	G	8-10' 8-10'	Multi-stemmed shrub that grows in full or partial sunlight. Can tolerate dry, hot conditions after established. Good for windbreaks, soil erosion and has some wildlife benefit.
Oak, blackjack <i>Quercus marilandica</i>		3-9	All	All	G	F	E	10-15' 20-50'	Commonly found with post oak in the Cross Timbers Forest type. Usually a smaller tree with atypical form. Grows well on most all soil types.
Oak, bur <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>		3-9	All	Most	G	F	E	10-15' 40-80'	A white oak with large acorns desired by wildlife. Well adapted to alkaline soils, sandy sites, and drought. Requires 15 years to reach seed bearing age. Very long lived.
Oak, chinkapin <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>		3-9	E, C	Most to Alkaline soils	G	G	E	12-15' 50-80'	A White oak. Quite drought tolerant once established. Requires well drained soils. "Sweet" acorns are a preferred wildlife food source.
Oak, northern red <i>Quercus rubra</i>		3-8	E, C	Slightly acidic soils	G	F	E	15-20' 65-100'	Can tolerate a variety of sites. Generally found on moist sites with deep rich soils. Common in eastern ¼ of OK. High valued lumber is used for flooring, furniture, caskets, millwork and pulpwood.
Oak, overcup <i>Quercus lyrata</i>		6-8	E, C	Slightly acidic soils	G	F	E	15-20' 60-90'	A white oak. Suitable for planting in riparian areas or flood plains and for wildlife plantings.
Oak, pin <i>Quercus palustris</i>		4-8	E, C	Slightly acidic soil	G	F	E	12-15' 100'	80 A red oak. Responds well to acidic mulches or acidification of soil with sulfur. Grows well in wet areas.

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Oak, post <i>Quercus stellata</i>		3-9	All	All	G	F	E	10-15' 20-50'	Commonly found with blackjack oak in the Cross Timbers Forest type. Usually a smaller tree. Grows well on most all soil types.
Oak, sawtooth <i>Quercus acutissima</i>		4-9	E, C	Most	G	F	E	20' 50-60'	A red oak. Tolerates poor soils. Desirable for wildlife plantings because they will produce acorns at early age (5-8 years). An introduced species.
Oak, shumard <i>Quercus shumardii</i>		3-9	All, but Panhandle	Most	G	F	E	15-20' 60-80'	A red oak. Grows very well in fair soils. Responds vigorously to good growing conditions. Generally a consistent acorn producer beginning in year 15.
Oak, water <i>Quercus nigra</i>		6-7	E, C	Moist	G	E	E	10-20' 40-100'	A red oak. Usually takes 20 years to produce acorns. Prefers moist wet soils. Often found with willow oak.
Oak, white <i>Quercus alba</i>		4-9	Most	Acidic soils	G	F	E	15-20' 70-90'	A white oak. Acorns preferred by wildlife, especially deer. Prefers moist well-drained acidic soils.
Oak, willow <i>Quercus phellos</i>		6-7	E, C	Moist	G	G	E	12-15' 40-80'	A red oak. Prefers acidic soils. May develop yellow leaves on alkaline soils.
Osage orange <i>Maclura pomifera</i>		5-9	All	Dry, Most soils	G	G	E	10-20' 40-60'	Very hard wood. Used for posts, firewood, windbreaks, and erosion control. Tough competitor.
Pecan, native <i>Carya illinoensis</i>		5-9	E, C	Needs Deep Soils	F	F	G	10-20' 80+'	Excellent for shading a site. Nuts are a cash crop and excellent source of food for wildlife. Wood highly prized for furniture.

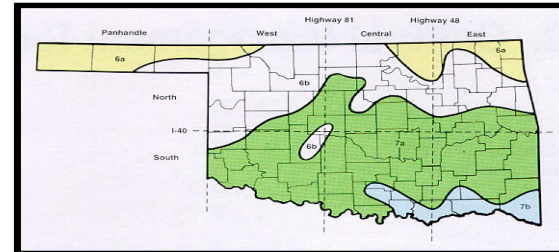
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Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>		4-9	All, but Panhandle	Moist	E	G	E	20-35' 40-60'	Excellent as a wildlife food source for animals in fall and winter. Good for low areas that have good moisture, and some upland sites.
Pine, digger <i>Pinus sabiniana</i>	X	8-9	All	Most	G	F	F	20-40' 30-60'	A non native, slow growing species that can tolerate very dry sites where precipitation is as low as 8-10 inches annually. Can grow on poorer soils. Does have some pest related problems.
Pine, loblolly <i>Pinus taeda</i>	X	6-10	All, but Panhandle	Most	F	F	F	15-30' 80-100'	Preferred and planted extensively in eastern Oklahoma for timber production. Use only on multi-row or temporary windbreaks.
Pine, mondell <i>Pinus eldarica</i>	X	6-8	All	Dry	E	F	F	10-30' 30-50'	Non native tree that has a fast growth rate. Grows on most soil types and is hearty once established. It is very drought tolerant, but is prone to tip moth. It is a good shelterbelt tree.
Pine, pinyon <i>Pinus edulis</i>	X	4-8	All	Dry	G	F	G	6-10' 20-40'	A very slow growing species that can tolerate very dry sites where precipitation is as low as 8-10 inches annually.
Pine, ponderosa <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	X	5-7	C, W	Dry	E	F	G	10-25' 40-60'	Very cold hardy and drought resistant. Well adapted to dry areas with low humidity and winds. Native to extreme western OK.
Pine, scotch (Belgian) <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	X	2-7	All	Well drained	G	F	G	15-20' 40-60'	Primarily used for shelterbelts and Christmas trees. Resistant to tip moth. A little faster growth rate than French scotch. Hardy tree.
Pine, scotch (French) <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	X	2-7	All	Well drained	G	F	G	15-20' 40-60'	Primarily used for shelterbelts and Christmas trees. Resistant to tip moth. Slower grower. Hardy tree.

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Pine, shortleaf <i>Pinus echinata</i>	X	5-9	E, C	Sandy, to rocky	F	F	G	12-25' 60-85'	Good tree for timber production on drier, rocky soils. Good for wildlife, especially used when restoring a pine/oak stand.
Pine, Virginia <i>Pinus virginiana</i>	X	4-8	All	Dry	G	G	G	15-20' 40-80'	Preferred Christmas tree in Oklahoma. Reaches sellable size in 4-6 years. Requires frequent pruning and tip moth control when used as Christmas tree.
Plum, American <i>Prunus americana</i>		3-8	All	Dry, Clay	G	G	E	15-20' 15-20'	Small tree to 20'. Forms thickets. Moist to well drained soils. Preferred by hooved browsers & small mammals. Edible fruit used for canning and jellies.
Plum, sand <i>Prunus angustifolia</i>		6-8	All	Dry, Moist	F	G	E	8-10' 8-10'	Excellent drought tolerance. Good for erosion control on sandy soil. Thickets provide excellent habitat and food for rabbits, birds, and non-game animals.
Redbud, eastern <i>Cercis canadensis</i>		4-9	All, but Panhandle	All	F	F	G	10-15' 25-40'	Tough durable tree. Tolerates shade. Prized for spring flowers. Seeds eaten by game birds. Widely planted as an urban tree.
Rocky Mnt. juniper <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	X	3-7	All	Dry	E	F	G	10-15' 25'	Similar size and shape to redcedar, but not an aggressive spreader. Tolerates poor, shallow, alkaline and droughty soils.
Sumac, Fragrant <i>Rhus aromatica</i>		5-9	All	Dry	E	G	G	5-6' 6-10'	Dense growth form with excellent cold hardiness. Tolerant to alkaline and droughty soils. Fruits eaten by birds, twigs browsed by deer.
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>		4-9	E, C	Wet, Clay	F	G	F	15-30' 70-100'	Moderately tolerant of wide range of soil types. Requires 25" of annual rainfall. Fast growing on good sites. Sometimes used for timber.

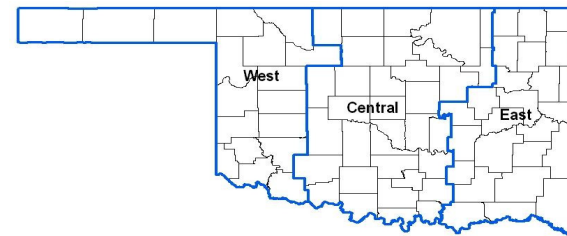
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Vitex <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>		6-9	All	Dry, Clay	G	F	E	6-10' 10-15'	A deciduous perennial shrub native to western Asia but grows well in all of Oklahoma. It can be pruned back to the ground in the winter or early spring to invigorate older plants.
Winterberry <i>Euonymus bungeanus</i>		4-9	All	Dry	E	G	G	15'	Excellent drought tolerance. Easy to transplant. Retains fruit through Fall and much of Winter. Good as an outer row in windbreaks and browse for game animals. Tolerates very poor sites.
Walnut, black <i>Juglans nigra</i>		4-9	E, C	Moist, well drained, bottoms preferred	F	G	E	15-25' 80-100'	Growth rate dependent on site quality. Wood valued for furniture. Seeds favored by squirrel and other wildlife. Seek professional forester to evaluate site for potential timber production.

If you are having problems understanding what the numbers and letters in the table mean, maybe this will help.

- Hardiness Zone column is in reference to the USDA Hardiness Zone map. This map is based on average minimum temperatures. Most of Oklahoma is in Hardiness Zone 6 and 7.



- Moisture Zone column is based on annual rainfall. Oklahoma can be divided into three zones. So, for example, Black walnut is a species that has an ideal moisture zone of E, C or Eastern and Central Oklahoma



- Soil Type lists a general soil condition that the species prefers. Some soil types are clay, sand, dry soils and wet soils.

- Common Use column lists what each species is recommended for. E=Excellent, G=Good and F=Fair.