

The Great Trees
of
Oklahoma



Cover: Mountain Fork River, McCurtain County Oklahoma
Photo by: Jeff Briley

This publication was developed and designed by John Burwell, O.D.A. Forestry Services and Hoffman Printing Co., Inc. Muskogee, Oklahoma.

The Great Trees of Oklahoma

You may have a champion in your Front Yard!

Since the early 1960's the Oklahoma Forestry Association, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Forestry Services has searched out and recorded the largest trees of each species occurring in the state. The list has been updated and published periodically ever since. Currently there are more than 100 champion and co-champion trees contained in the list.

The "bigness" of a tree is measured by a combination of factors. First, the circumference of the tree is measured in inches at four and a half feet above the ground. That is added to the total height of the tree in feet. Finally, one-quarter of the average crown spread in feet is added to obtain a point total.

The Oklahoma Champion Tree List has broad appeal. Many homeowners take great pride in having the largest specimen of a particular tree species in their yard. The Oklahoma Champions are also submitted to the American Forestry Association to be recorded nationally. And some, in fact, are recognized as being the largest tree of its species in the entire United States.

We are proud to present this publication of The Great Trees of Oklahoma for the year 2000. We hope you find scanning its pages entertaining and enjoyable.



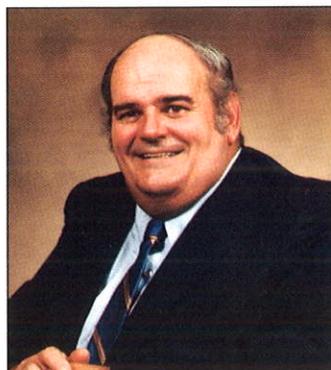
The Great Trees of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Forestry Association

The Oklahoma Forestry Association is a non-profit, privately supported association of citizens concerned with the forest environment. Comprised of conservation minded landowners, citizens and forest industry, OFA's purpose is to promote and encourage the wise use and stewardship of Oklahoma's woodland resources for society now and in the future. To that end, the association supports numerous causes and projects throughout the state for the betterment of forestry, including official sponsorship of *The Great Trees of Oklahoma*. Any person or organization concerned with improving Oklahoma forests is welcome to be a member of the *Oklahoma Forestry Association*. Simply contact us by calling 580-286-3970, or write: Oklahoma Forestry Association, P.O. Box 238, Idabel, OK 74745. Dues are Tax Deductible!

Oklahoma Forestry Association Activities

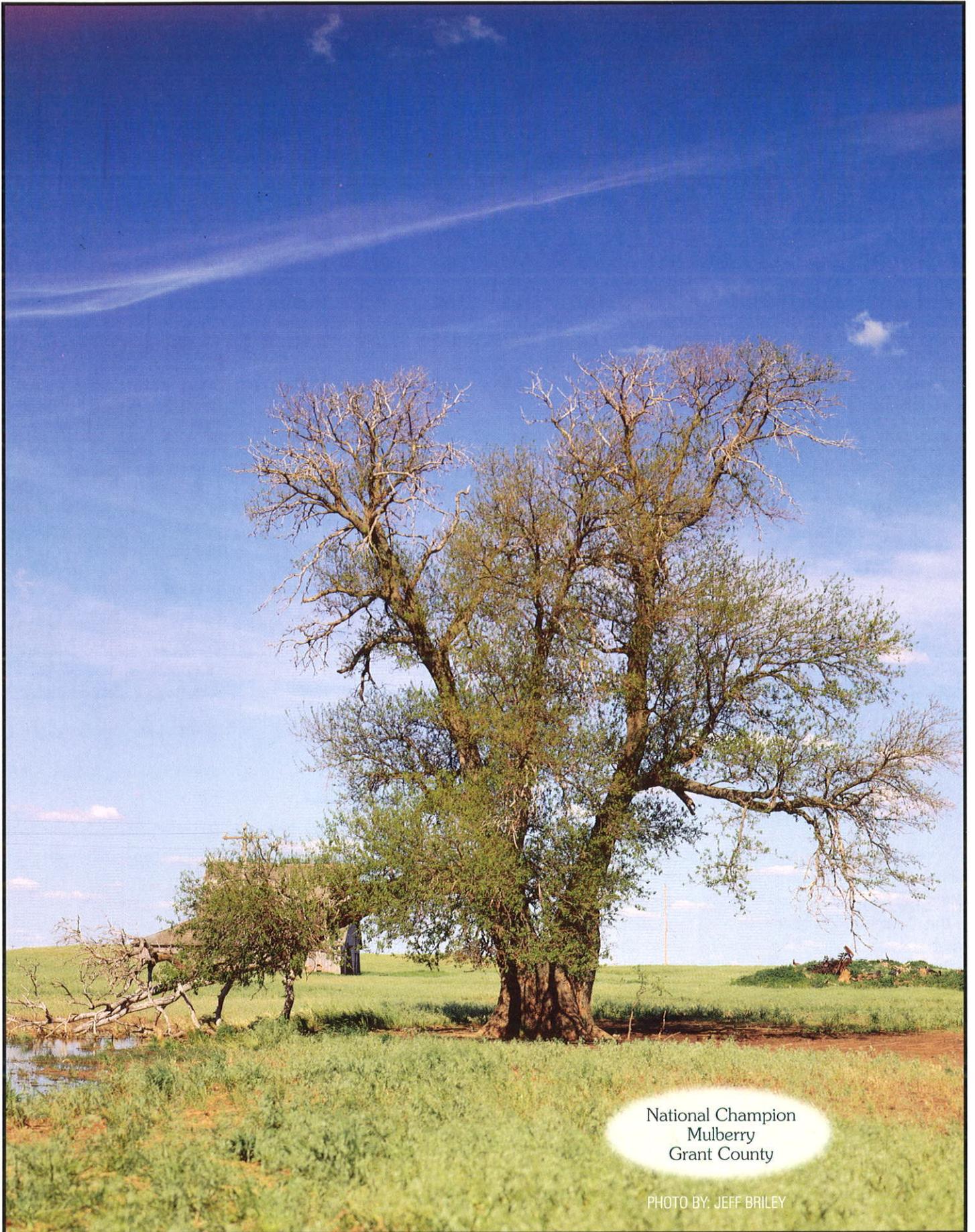
For the past 75 years, Forestry Services has provided quality assistance to Oklahomans through a wide array of programs and services. Forestry Services mission is to serve the citizens of Oklahoma by protecting, improving and developing the State's forest resources, and to enhance the benefits to society from those resources. To do this, the division maintains offices throughout the state, with foresters available to assist citizens with their forest and individual tree concerns. Many of Oklahoma's Champion Trees were discovered and reported by foresters, technicians and rangers employed by Forestry Services. The list itself is maintained and has been published by this agency for several years in cooperation with the Oklahoma Forestry Association. To contact a forester call the State Headquarters office in Oklahoma City at 405-522-6158.



KEEPER OF THE LIST

For the past 10 years, Oklahoma's Champion Tree list has been kept by Bob McCord. Bob is Forest Fire Control Officer for the Oklahoma Forestry Service's Northeast Fire Protection Area, headquartered in Tahlequah. Much gratitude is owed to Bob for the work he has done to organize and maintain the list in its present form.

The Great Trees of Oklahoma



National Champion
Mulberry
Grant County

PHOTO BY: JEFF BRILEY

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Species and Year Most Recently Measured (✓ Co-Champ, ✗ Naturalized, ○ Cultivated)	Circumference (inches)	Total Height (Feet)	Crown Spread (Feet)	Total Points	County	Owner, Location & Nominator
AILANTHUS						
✗ Tree of Heaven, <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (1998)	140	60	66	217	Kay	Kay Whitlock, Ponca City; Richard Keathly, Dan Stidham
ASH						
Blue, <i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> (1994)	96	68	54	178	Adair	Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Cookson; Noble Casey, P. Hayden, E.L. Little
✓ Green, <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> (1995)	125	85	68	227	Pushmataha	Ed Hurliman, Broken Bow Area; Charles Isom, Owen Kellogg
✓ Green, <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> (1995)	132	68	89	222	Muskogee	James E. Waldron, Muskogee; Terry Cain
✓ White, <i>Fraxinus americana</i> (1998)	96	92	69	205	Adair	Tom Carson, East of Stilwell; Steve Mattax, Roger Wilhite
✓ White, <i>Fraxinus americana</i> (1997)	132	59	57	205	McCurtain	Robert Peavey, SE of Broken Bow; John Burwell Sr., Thad McFarland, Jim Monroe
BACCHARIS						
Eastern, <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> (1989)	4.2	10	8	16	McCurtain	Unknown, Idabel; J. Burwell Sr.
BALDCYPRESS						
Common, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> (1997)	302	112	60	429	McCurtain	Kirk McCoy, Broken Bow; Jim Burnett, Don Cook
BASSWOOD						
American, <i>Tilia americana</i> (1981)	110	80	60	210	Adair	Flint Ridge Development, Kansas; Steve Mattax, Phil Hayden
Carolina, <i>Tilia caroliniana</i> (1998)	98	80	60	193	Pushmataha	Mr. Corbin, Near Albion; Owen Kellogg, W.E. Smith
Littleleaf Linden, <i>Tilia cordata</i> (1998)	47	55	37	112	Kay	Jack Bowker, Ponca City;

— Death of a Giant —

For years the sign has stood along U.S. Highway 70 east of Broken Bow. It announces your arrival to the site of the State's Largest Tree, a giant baldcypress which has stood on the banks of Mountain Fork river since the birth of Christ. Locals and tourists alike trek up the gravel lane leading to the home of Lewis Stiles, whose family has served as steward of the tree since 1910. Visitors gladly pay a small admission fee just to walk around and marvel at its enormous trunk, measuring 33 feet in circumference. Many children have played at its knees and taken these memories into their adult lives. This massive conifer was indeed the undisputed king of Giant Trees in Oklahoma.

Then in a flash of nature's fury on May 12, 1982 the tree was struck by lightning. No doubt over the course of 2,000 years it had been struck before. But, this time was different. This time nature showed no mercy. Its crown was

completely blown apart and it fell to the earth in the thunderous explosion. The trunk ignited and flames consumed a large part of its bole. By the next morning, the tree was literally a shell of its former self.

Lewis Stiles was heartbroken as he surveyed the damage. From the remains of the limbs on the ground he was able to salvage more than 1000 board feet of lumber. A limb too large for the local sawmill was drug to rest in front of his house and remains there still.

Although the tree is no longer alive, its remnants, towering some 90 feet, are still viewed in awe by visitors. How sad that something which had lived so long would succumb in a flash of time. Often things people admire and revere most in nature are casualties of nature itself. Such was the fate of Oklahoma's largest tree.

— John Burwell

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BEECH American, <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> (1993)	104	86	71	208	LeFlore	Richard Keathly, Dan Stidham
BIRCH River, <i>Betula nigra</i> (1993)	116	110	66	243	Cherokee	Robin Perona, Peggs Area; J. Cashion, K. Applegate, D. Lenz
BOXELDER <i>Acer negundo</i> (1994)	156	66	66	239	Caddo	Oklahoma Dept. of Tourism & Recreation, Red Rock Canyon SP; Gary Holeman
BUCKEYE Ohio, <i>Aesculus glabra</i> (1991)	17	27	12	47	Sequoyah	Evelin Brocker, Gans Area; Jim Palmer, Cliff Eppler
Texas, <i>Aesculus glabra</i> var. <i>arguta</i> (1993)	25	14	14	43	Caddo	Oklahoma Dept. of Tourism & Recreation, Red Rock Canyon SP; Bob Harrel
Red, <i>Aesculus pavia</i> (1995)	21	26	28	54	McCurtain	Wilbur Burris, Broken Bow; Dale Campbell, John Burwell, Sr.
BUMELIA Chittamwood, <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i> (1997)	92	54	41	156	Alfalfa	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Great Salt Plains; Steve Tully, Mark Mosely
CATALPA Northern, <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> (1994)	205	90	76	314	Tulsa	Fred Shaw, Tulsa; Stephen T. Sprehe, Rob Doye
CEDAR ✓ Deodar, <i>Cedrus deodara</i> (1994)	110	70	51	193	Cherokee	Florene Ransom, Tahlequah; Allen Nevel
✓ Deodar, <i>Cedrus deodara</i> (1994)	111	65	56	190	Cherokee	Sid Wyly, Tahlequah; Steve Mattax
○ Lebanon, <i>Cedrus libani</i> (1997)	98	30	26	135	McCurtain	Wheelock Academy; Roy Griffith, George Watts
○ Atlas, <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> (1997)	108	40	64	164	McCurtain	Willa Ruth Kirby, Idabel; John Burwell, Sr., Paul Fuller



BALDCYPRESS
MCCURTAIN COUNTY
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY

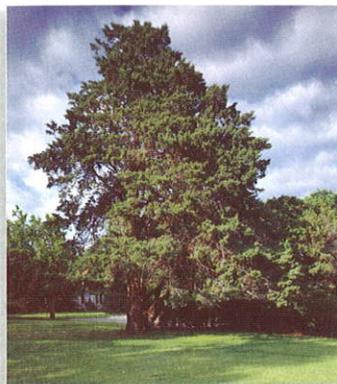


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CHERRY						
Black, <i>Prunus serotina</i> (1995)	125	84	57	223	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
CHESTNUT						
American, <i>Castanea dentata</i> (1998)	80	55	42	146	Cleveland	Richard Lind, Goldsby; Bob Harrel
○ Chinese, <i>Castanea mellissima</i> (1994)	46	32	37	87	McCurtain	Bert Dodson, Broken Bow Area; Berlin Heck
CHINA FIR						
○ <i>Cunninghamia lanceolata</i> (1997)	71	62	27	140	McCurtain	Cleo Zambon, Idabel; John Burwell Sr.
CHINABERRY						
✗ <i>Melia azedarach</i> (1995)	68	47	36	124	McCurtain	L.H. Barrett, Broken Bow Area; Berlin Heck
COFFEETREE						
Kentucky, <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> (1983)	98	76	60	189	Canadian	Methodist Church Camp, Hinton; Bob Birchell
COTTONWOOD						
Eastern, <i>Populus deltoides</i> (1997)	254	112	100	391	Muskogee	Paul & Josephine Jones 4640 Verdigris, Muskogee Jim & Marion Norman, Dale Lenz
CYPRESS						
Arizona, <i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var <i>arizonica</i> (1997)	124	45	63	185	Woodward	U.S.D.A., Woodward Field Station; Gerald Heath
DAWN REDWOOD						
○ <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> (1998)	88	73	35	170	Tulsa	J.B. & Linda Murphree, Tulsa; Allen Nevel, Terry Cain
DEVILS-WALKINGSTICK						
<i>Aralia spinosa</i> (1994)	22	44	32	74	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
DOGWOOD						
Flowering, <i>Cornus florida</i> (1988)	52	42	38	104	Mayes	R. C. Owens, Spavinaw; Bill Anderson, Dale Lenz
ELM						
American, <i>Ulmus americana</i> (1994)	201	89	92	313	Tulsa	Southern Hills Country Club, #2 Green - Tulsa; Bob Birchell, Rob Doye
Cedar, <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> (1997)	86	94	50	193	McCurtain	Robert Goolsby, Garvin; J. Burwell, Sr.
○ Lacebark, <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (1994)	98	67	60	180	Osage	Tulsa Country Club (#17 Tee Box); Bob Birchell, Rob Doye
September, <i>Ulmus serotina</i> (1997)	92	85	63	193	McCurtain	Robert Goolsby, Garvin; J. Burwell, Sr.
✗ Siberian, <i>Ulmus pumila</i> (1991)	145	62	80	227	Custer	Verlin & Kay Koper, Weatherford; Mark Vitosh, Brent McClendon
Winged, <i>Ulmus alata</i> (1998)	72	96	56	184	Pushmataha	Donnie & Clyde Corbin, Albion; Jim Langdon
EUONYMUS						
○ Winterberry, <i>Euonymus bungeanus</i> (1998)	90	28	29	125	Woodward	USDA Field Station, Woodward, Gerald Heath, John Miller

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HACKBERRY						
Common, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (1997)	196	69	80	285	Muskogee	Claresis Harp, Porum Area; L. D. Austin
HAWTHORN						
✓ Green, <i>Crataegus viridis</i> (1994)	29	26	24	61	Pushmataha	Donnie & Clyde Corbin, Albion Area; Jim Langdon
✓ Green, <i>Crataegus viridis</i> (1992)	32	20	27	59	Okmulgee	Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Okmulgee; Scott Abernathy, S. Mattax
Littlehip, <i>Crataegus spathulata</i> (1991)	22	18	20	45	Okmulgee	Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Okmulgee; Jeff Abernathy, Steve Mattax
HERCULES-CLUB						
<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i> (1995)	39	61	27	107	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
HICKORY						
Bitternut, <i>Carya cordiformis</i> (1987)	114	80	58	209	Ottawa	Alan George, Wyandotte; Rick O'Daniel
Black, <i>Carya texana</i> (1997)	132	83	59	230	McCurtain	Larry Pollard, Haworth; Jim Burnett
Mockernut, <i>Carya tomentosa</i> (1985)	103	120	60	238	McCurtain	John Shipp, Broken Bow Area; John Burwell, Sr.
Nutmeg, <i>Carya myristiciformis</i> (1995)	111	122	69	250	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge
Shagbark, <i>Carya ovata</i> (1995)	118	124	69	259	McCurtain	Weyerhaeuser Co., Broken Bow Area
Water, <i>Carya aquatica</i> (1993)	130	83	55	227	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge
HOLLY						
American, <i>Ilex opaca</i> (1997)	98	50	52	161	Pushmataha	Clyde Bell, Antlers Area; Clifton Wilson, John Clark
HONEYLOCUST						
Honeylocust, <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> (1999)	114	111	69	242	Adair	E. J. & Kathy Davis, Stilwell; Jack Fain, T. Cain, Dale Lenz



ARIZONA CYPRESS, USDA FIELD STATION
WOODWARD, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY



AMERICAN ELM, SOUTHERN HILLS
COUNTRY CLUB TULSA, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER



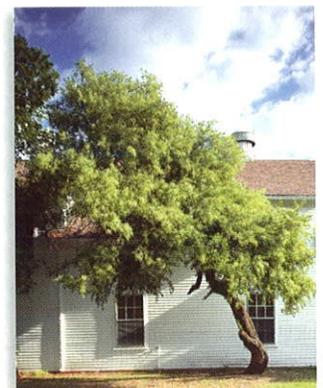
AMERICAN CHESTNUT
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY

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HOPHORNBEAM						
Eastern, <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> (1980)	26	30	28	63	Cherokee	Unknown, West of Welling; Phillip Cummings, Phil Hayden
HORNBEAM						
✓ American, <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (1998)	39	56	44	106	Pushmataha	Donnie & Clyde Corbin, Albion; Jim Langdon
✓ American, <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (1995)	49	44	39	103	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
✓ American, <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (1997)	32	60	41	102	McCurtain	Robert Goolsby, Garvin Area; John Burwell, Sr.
LOCUST						
Black, <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (1999)	114	92	72	224	Adair	E. J. & Kitty Davis, Piney Area; Dale Lenz
MAGNOLIA						
✓ Southern, <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> (1997)	133	56	56	203	McCurtain	Sonny Minter, Idabel; John Burwell, Sr.
✓ Southern, <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> (1997)	128	56	56	198	McCurtain	Ruby Harris, Pleasant Hill; John Burwell, Sr.
MAIDENHAIR						
○ <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (1999)	88	58	50	159	Kay	Lyle Harmes, Ponca City; Jack Keathly & Jim Eck
MAPLE						
Red, <i>Acer rubrum</i> (1997)	107	80	63	203	McCurtain	Joe Hendrix, Idabel; John Burwell, Sr.
Silver, <i>Acer saccharinum</i> (1998)	281	77	104	384	Alfalfa	Vance AFB; Dan Stidham
Sugar, <i>Acer saccharum</i> (1986)	122	102	60	239	Pushmataha	Lyle Smith, Antlers Area; Dave Walters
MESQUITE						
Honey, <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> (1997)	102	40	39	152	Greer	Oklahoma Dept. of Corrections, Granite Reformatory; L.H. Lindsay, Gary LaFrance
MULBERRY						
Red, <i>Morus rubra</i> (1991)	260	63	78	343	Grant	Clinton Combs Estate, Pond Creek Area; Jim Mitchell



GREEN ASH
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER



WINTERBERRY EUONYMUS
USDA FIELD STATION
WOODWARD, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY

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OAK						
Black, <i>Quercus velutina</i> (1997)	179	90	92	292	McCurtain	Warren Wooten, Broken Bow Area; R. Goolsby, J. Burwell, Sr.
Blackjack, <i>Quercus marilandica</i> (1984)	169	48	78	237	Grant	E. M. Robinson, Jet Area; Lloyd Martin
Bur, <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> (1998)	226	79	125	336	Cleveland	Univ. of Oklahoma Golf Course, No. 13 Green; Bob Harrel, Bob Birchell
Cherrybark, <i>Quercus falcata</i> var <i>pagodifolia</i> (1996)	198	120	81	338	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
Chinkapin, <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> (1995)	160	85	92	268	Cherokee	Ina Mae Christie, Bunch; Terry Cain, Allen Nevel
Durand, <i>Quercus durandii</i> (1987)	126	75	70	219	McCurtain	Ted Strain, Broken Bow; John Burwell, Sr.
Northern Red, <i>Quercus rubra</i> (1987)	186	120	100	331	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; R. Huffman, B. Heck, J. Burwell, Sr.
Nuttall, <i>Quercus nuttallii</i> (1997)	147	95	91	265	McCurtain	Harold Stevenson, Idabel; John Burwell, Sr.
Overcup, <i>Quercus lyrata</i> (1996)	133	120	75	272	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
✓ Pin, <i>Quercus palustris</i> (1987)	183	112	100	320	Ottawa	Wyandotte Tribe, Wyandotte; Allen George, Rick O'Daniel
✓ Pin, <i>Quercus palustris</i> (1995)	194	103	80	317	Pushmataha	Vivian Nicholas, Antlers Area; Ruel Bain, Norm Smola
Post, <i>Quercus stellata</i> (1997)	157	79	79	256	McCurtain	Rona Riley, Idabel; J. Burwell, Sr.
○ Sawtooth, <i>Quercus acutissima</i> (1988)	39	36	33	83	Oklahoma	OKC Parks Department, OKC; Dave Eastman
✓ Shumard, <i>Quercus shumardii</i> (1987)	196	87	60	298	LeFlore	Kerr Center, Poteau; Jim Cantrell, Paul Threadgill, Bernie Andersen
Southern Red, <i>Quercus falcata</i> (1988)	211	85	126	328	McCurtain	Charles Pierce, Broken Bow Area; Roy Cates, John Burwell, Sr.
Texas Live, <i>Quercus virginiana</i> (1999)	88	39	54	141	Stephens	Gary Gilmore, Marlow; Stacy Kunze, Kevin Keys
✓ Water, <i>Quercus nigra</i> (1995)	219	85	100	329	Pushmataha	W. H. Emory, Moyers Area; Cliff Wilson, J. Langdon
✓ Water, <i>Quercus nigra</i> (1985)	147	153	100	325	McCurtain	Weyerhaeuser Co., Broken Bow Area; John Burwell, Sr.
White, <i>Quercus alba</i> (1992)	206	128	102	360	Adair	Tom Carson, Stilwell Area; L. Knapp, R. Wilhite
Willow, <i>Quercus phellos</i> (1999)	255	81	98	361	McCurtain	L. A. & Ruby Burnett, Idabel Area; Carson Burnett, John Burwell, Sr.



CATALPA
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER

STATE CHAMPION
BUR OAK
OU GOLF COURSE
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY



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OSAGE-ORANGE Maclura pomifera (1995)	211	63	61	289	Muskogee	Mrs. C. L. Garrett, Webber Falls; Max Craighead, Bob Gardner
PARASOLTREE ✗ Chinese, Firmiana simplex (1985)	25	31	24	62	McCurtain	Hedger Estate, Idabel; John Burwell, Sr.
PAULOWNIA ✗ Royal, Paulownia tomentosa (1999)	82	37	52	132	Kay	Dr. Bob Gibson, Ponca City; Richard Keathly, Dan Stidham
PAWPAW Common, Asimina triloba (1994)	17	37	20	59	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
PISTACHE ○ Chinese, Pistacia chinensis (1998)	54	49	55	117	Kay	Richard Winter, Ponca City; Richard Keathly, Dan Stidham
PEAR Common, Pyrus communis (1998)	68	44	31	120	Wagoner	Theodore Parker, Porter; C. M. Sturm, Dale Lenz
PECAN Carya illinoensis (1997)	217	108	110	353	Muskogee	Don Cook, Southeast of Ft. Gibson; C.T. Morgan, A. Nevel, B. Lyons
PERSIMMON Common, Diospyros virginiana (1989)	109	76	66	202	Sequoyah	Mike Tubbs, 518 S. Wheeler, Sallisaw
PINE ○ Austrian, Pinus nigra (1998)	108	46	60	169	Kay	City of Ponca City, Lake Ponca Park; Richard Keathly, Dan Stidham
Eastern White, Pinus strobus (1998)	70	73	40	153	Kay	Vick Flegley, Ponca City; Richard Keathly, Dan Stidham
Loblolly, Pinus taeda (1986)	143	123	60	281	McCurtain	Weyerhaeuser, Haworth; Paul Ferguson, Tim Kolnick
Ponderosa, Pinus ponderosa (1998)	92	70	36	171	Woodward	USDA Field Station, Woodward; John Miller
✗ Scotch, Pinus sylvestris (1996)	62	49	43	122	Okmulgee	Okmulgee Parks Dept., City Park; S. Mattax, C. Henshaw, C. Garrison
✓ Shortleaf, Pinus echinata (1997)	99	120	55	233	McCurtain	ODA Forestry Services, Broken Bow; Terry Baker
✓ Shortleaf, Pinus echinata (1994)	103	112	60	230	Pushmataha	Arther D. Choyke Jr., Daisy Area; O. Kellogg, W. E. Smith
✓ Shortleaf, Pinus echinata (1994)	106	108	60	229	Pushmataha	Arther D. Choyke Jr., Daisy Area; O. Kellogg, W. E. Smith
Slash, Pinus elliottii (1995)	94	84	54	192	Okmulgee	Kent Spring, Okmulgee; Phil Hayden

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POPLAR						
✗ White, Populus alba (1986)	87	57	54	158	McCurtain	James Clemens, Broken Bow; Danny Dollarhide, Dale Lenz
REDBUD (Oklahoma's State Tree)						
✓ Eastern, Cercis canadensis (1985)	43	55	60	113	McCurtain	Thad McFarland, Eagletown; John Burwell, Sr.
✓ Eastern, Cercis canadensis (1996)	68	32	43	111	Tulsa	Jacques LaFrance, Tulsa; Richard Bewley
REDCEDAR						
✓ Juniperus virginiana (1992)	120	42	26	169	Payne	W. M. Bryan, W. of Stillwater; W. M. & Joye Bryan
✓ Juniperus virginiana (1988)	108	47	48	167	Cleveland	John Frasure, Norman; Dave Eastman
✓ Juniperus virginiana (1991)	101	55	39	166	Dewey	Fred Cline, Oakwood Area; Mark Vitosh
SASSAFRAS						
Sassafras albidum (1986)	143	53	54	210	Choctaw	Kenneth Davidson, Grant; Bryant Rickman, D. L. Wilkerson, O. Kellogg, E. Smith
SERVICEBERRY						
Downy, Amelanchier arborea (1981)	18	35	21	58	Adair	Unknown, Watts Area; Phil Hayden
SILKTREE						
✗ Mimosa, Albizia julibrissin (1990)	89	45	52	147	Oklahoma	Dan Sutter, Edmond; Bob Harrel
SOAPBERRY						
Western, Sapindus drummondii (1994)	116	63	52	192	Washita	City of Colony, Parks Department; Gary Holeman
SOPHORA						
Texas, Sophora affinis (1985)	35	40	25	81	McCurtain	Robert Goolsby, Garvin Area; John Burwell, Sr.



OSAGE ORANGE
WEBBERS FALLS
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER



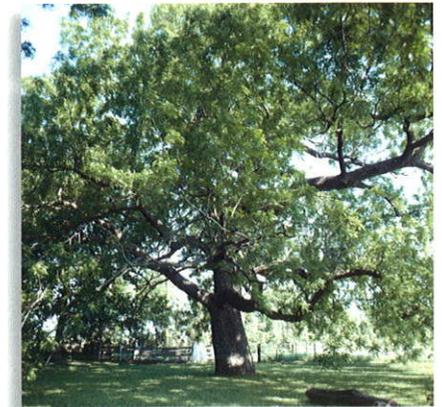
PECAN
FORT GIBSON, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER

The Great Trees of Oklahoma

Species and Year Most Recently Measured (✓ Co-Champ, ✗ Naturalized, ○ Cultivated)	Circumference (inches)	Total Height (Feet)	Crown Spread (Feet)	Total Points	County	Owner, Location & Nominator
SPARKLEBERRY Tree, <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> (1986)	14	20	18	39	McCurtain	Unknown, Broken Bow Area; Jim Monroe, John Burwell, Sr.
SPRUCE Blue, <i>Picea pungens</i> (1995)	38	25	20	68	Okmulgee	Unknown, Okmulgee; Steve Mattax
SUGARBERRY <i>Celtis laevigata</i> (1996)	208	87	69	312	Muskogee	C. T. Morgan, Muskogee Area; Dale Lenz
SUMAC Shining, <i>Rhus copallina</i> (1999)	18	28	13	49	Canadian	Last Frontier Camp, BSA; Kurt Atkinson
SWEETGUM American, <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (1995)	131	135	72	284	McCurtain	Clifford Snowden, Broken Bow Area; Berlin Heck
SWEETLEAF ✓ <i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> (1995)	44	57	30	109	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
✓ <i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> (1989)	41	60	20	106	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck, Jim Norman, John Burwell, Sr.
✓ <i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> (1995)	41	54	36	104	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
SYCAMORE American, <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> (1997)	257	105	105	388	Tulsa	Doug Brown, Tulsa; Donna Dickson, Allen Nevel, Terry Cain
○ London Planetree, <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (1997)	145	90	74	254	Jackson	Larry Wittmer, SE of Blair; Gary Holeman



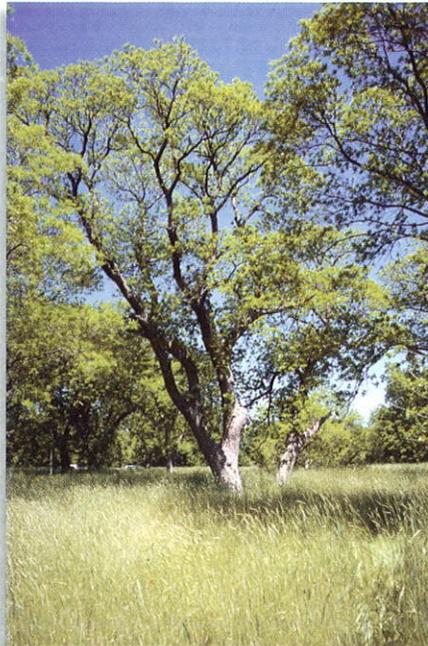
SYCAMORE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER



BLACK WALNUT
BIXBY, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JIM FOWLER

The Great Trees of Oklahoma

Species and Year Most Recently Measured (✓ Co-Champ, ✗ Naturalized, ○ Cultivated)	Circumference (inches)	Total Height (Feet)	Crown Spread (Feet)	Total Points	County	Owner, Location & Nominator
TALLOWTREE						
✗ Sapium sebiferum (1987)	46	26	20	77	McCurtain	Mrs. T. E. Wade, Idabel; John Burwell, Sr.
TUPELO						
Blackgum, Nyssa sylvatica (1997)	194	108	96	326	Pushmataha	Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Antlers Area; Steve Swain
WALNUT						
Black, Juglans nigra (1994)	187	84	109	298	Tulsa	Claude McCartney, Bixby; Tom Outhier, John Burwell, Jr.
WATER-ELM						
Planera aquatica (1993)	66	37	42	114	McCurtain	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Little River Refuge; Berlin Heck
WILLOW						
Black, Salix nigra (1992)	221	48	60	284	Cleveland	Larry Harmon, Newalla area; Patrick McDowell
✗ Weeping, Salix babylonica (1981)	143	52	62	211	Mayes	Lee Kichens, Pryor; Gary Holeman, Phil Hayden
YELLOW-POPLAR						
Tuliptree, Liriodendron tulipifera (1997)	97	131	49	240	Adair	Ed Baker, Bunch Area; Phil Hayden



WESTERN SOAPBERRY
COLONY, OKLAHOMA CITY PARK
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY

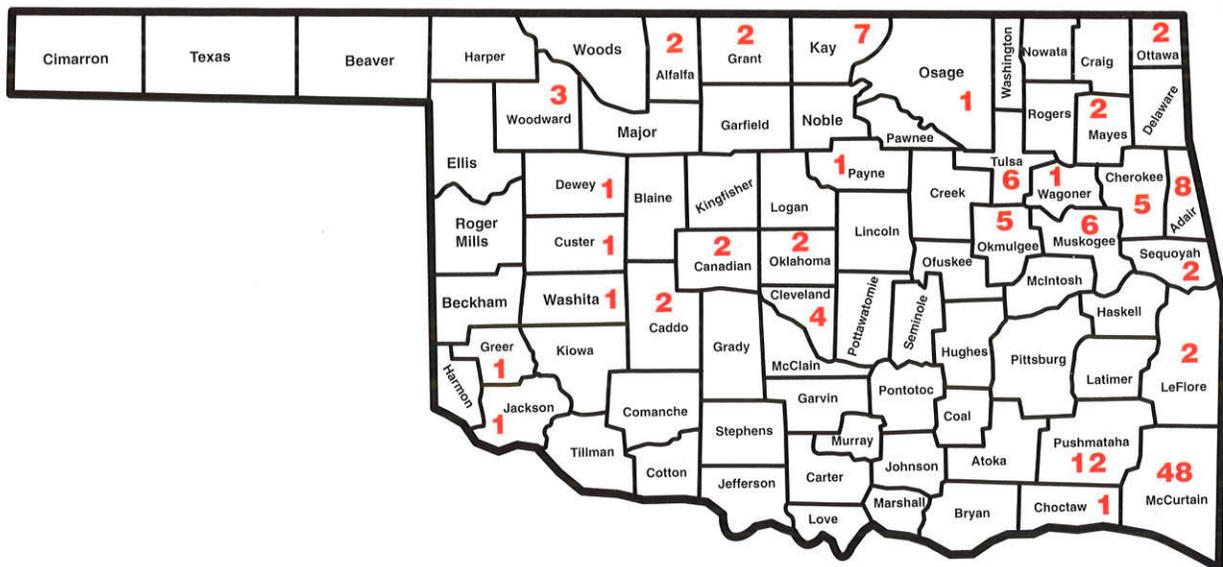


AILANTHUS
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA
PHOTO: JEFF BRILEY

The Great Trees of Oklahoma

Oklahoma's Champion and Co-Champion Trees by County

Although the majority of Oklahoma's Champion and Co-champion trees reside in eastern Oklahoma's commercially forested region, a good number are distributed throughout the state. This is particularly true in cities, towns and settlements where trees have been cultivated since the 1800's. Below is a pictorial presentation of where Oklahoma's Big Trees can be found. This distribution pattern is also an indication of where the seekers of Big Trees have sought to find them. There are certainly a number of current champions ripe to be de-throned. And, who knows? You might have a new champion standing in your own front yard.



The Great Trees of Oklahoma

How Champion Trees are Measured

The “bigness” of a champion tree is calculated using a point system developed by the American Forestry Association. A Champion’s total points is a composite of its circumference, its total height and one quarter of its average crown spread.

Measuring Circumference

Circumference is measured in inches using an ordinary tape measure. The first step in this process is to determine the point of measurement. On flat ground, take the measurement at a height of 4½ feet above the ground. If the tree is on a slope, take the measurement 4½ feet up the bole on the uphill side. Keep the tape perpendicular to the bole and read its circumference to the nearest inch.

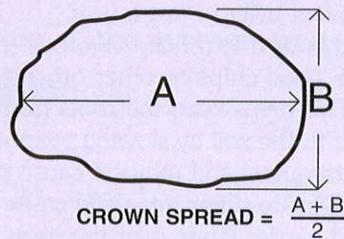
Special rules apply for trees which fork below 4½ feet, and for trees with abnormalities on the bole which affect its size at 4½ feet. If the tree forks below 4½ feet, measure only its largest fork. If an abnormality affects the tree’s circumference at 4½ feet, take the measurement at the smallest point below the abnormal growth.

Measuring Crown Spread

Crown Spread is measured in feet and is the average of the greatest and least distance across the drip line of the tree (Figure 1). This measurement is often the least accurate, due to the subjective nature of the exact points to be measured. Once the widest and narrowest spread is averaged, points are calculated by dividing by four.

FIGURE 1.

DIAGRAM FOR CROWN



Measuring Total Tree Height

Tree height is measured in feet and is most easily done using a special instrument called a “hypsometer.” A hypsometer measures an angle and converts it to a direct height reading at a certain distance. Because most people do not have access to such an instrument, it is best to have a forester take this measurement prior to submitting an entry for consideration as a Champion Tree. For those adept in trigonometry, Figure 2 shows the trigonometric formula for determining height.

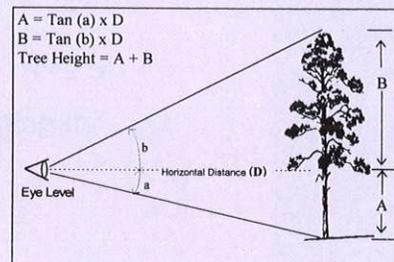
Figure 2.

$$A = \text{Tan } (a) \times D$$

$$B = \text{Tan } (b) \times D$$

$$\text{Tree Height} = A + B$$

FIGURE 2.



Calculating Total Points

Once all measurements are taken, the Total Points are calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{TOTAL POINTS} = \text{CIRCUMFERENCE (Inches)} + \text{TOTAL TREE HEIGHT (Feet)} + \text{AVG. CROWN SPREAD(Feet)} / 4$$

The Great Trees of Oklahoma

Growing Healthy Trees by Melissa Pearson

Will your tree become a magnificent state champion some day? That depends a lot on you. Every tree needs the same four ingredients in the recipe for successful growth. Trees need sunlight, water, nutrients and room to grow. A champion tree requires one extra ingredient - plenty of time.

Sunlight is essential for healthy leaves. Trees create sugars in their leaves then store them in their roots as starches. Growing under the shade of larger trees or being shaded by nearby buildings can limit the light available to the leaves and cause a tree to grow more slowly.

Trees are like sponges. Their tissues are filled with water absorbed through their roots. Newly planted trees will benefit from being watered once every ten days through the growing season and twice a month through the winter to keep vital moisture in the soil. Slowly soaking a tree's root area is more effective than shallow, frequent sprinkling.

A soil test is an easy way to find out whether soil contains nutrients trees need for healthy living. Trees depend on nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in large amounts along with many other elements. Forest soils usually contain all the necessary nutrients. Landscape trees growing in disturbed soils may benefit from careful applications of fertilizer or organic soil amendments. A soil test is the best way to find out if nutrients are missing.

Room to grow is often the most difficult tree requirement for homeowners to provide. Backyards and city streets often have very limited space for both roots and branches. Before planting a tree, find out what its size will be at maturity to avoid future conflicts with buildings and utility lines. Many people are surprised to find that healthy young trees can grow as much as two or three feet taller in just a year.

To help your tree remain vigorous, place mulch over its roots and protect it from damage. A layer of wood chips or other organic material insulates the soil from rapid changes in temperature. This helps keep the roots from being too hot or too cold to grow. Mulch also retains moisture in the soil by slowing evaporation.

String trimmers and mowers cause permanent wounds. These unsightly gashes allow diseases and insects to enter trees and cause more problems. Avoid this unnecessary damage by placing weed barrier fabric over the roots or using a trunk protector made from flexible plastic. Be sure to replace the trunk protector with a larger size as the trunk continues to expand in diameter.

Although most champion trees are decades old, trees provide important environmental benefits as soon as they are planted. These simple guidelines will help any tree stay healthy and grow well. Whether or not your tree becomes a state champion, it will reward your care with beauty in every season.



CHINKAPIN OAK
PHOTO: BRANDY HERREN



**Trees For Which Oklahoma Has No Champion
December, 1998**

Allegheny Chinkapin
American Bladdernut
American Plum
Arborvitae
Autumn Olive
Bluejack Oak
Bradford Pear
Buttonbush
Carolina Buckthorn
Chickasaw Plum
Choke Cherry
Coastal Plain Willow
Cucumber Tree
Gambel Oak
Harvard Oak
Hazel Alder
Indian Cherry
Little Walnut
Mexican Plum
Mountain Silver Bells
Netleaf Hackberry

Ozark Chinkapin
Paper Mulberry
Pignut Hickory
Pinyon Pine
Possumhaw
Rock Cedar
Roughleaf Dogwood
Russian Olive
Rusty Blackhaw
Seaside Alder
Shellbark Hickory
Shin Oak
Slippery Elm
Swamp Oak
Swamp White Oak
Texas Live Oak
Texas Mulberry
Western Walnut
White Mulberry
Witch Hazel
Yellow Wood

