

# Plants for North Central Texas Understory/Ornamental Trees



Common Name Scientific Name	Evergreen/Perennial <sup>1</sup>	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Seasonal Interest	Native - Denton County	Color & Features	Garden Lists <sup>2</sup>	Maintenance
Buckeye, Mexican <i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	D	12-20'	12-20'	Early spring	Y	Pink Flowers	4,5	Without pruning, forms multi-stemmed shrub
Buckeye, Red/Scarlet <i>Aesculus pavia var. pavia</i>		10-15'	6-12'	Spring		Red or yellow flowers	4,5	Prune for shape if desired
Carolina Buckthorn <i>Frangula caroliniana (Rhamnus caroliniana)</i>	D	12-20'	15'	Fall	Y	Yellow leaves, red/black berries	1,2,3,4,5,6	Prune for shape or to raise canopy
Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	E	15-20'	10-15' can be 40'	Spring, Fall		Glossy, dark green foliage; white flowers; black berries	4,5,6	Prune for shape - shrub or tree form
Chikasaw Plum <i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	D	4-15'	4-20'	Spring	Y	White flowers, red fruit	4,5	
Desert Willow <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	D	20-30'	15-25'	Spring, Fall		White, pink or purple flowers	4,5	Prune for shape or to raise canopy; remove suckers
Dogwood, Roughleaf <i>Cornus drummondii</i>	D	10-15'	to 16'	Spring, Fall	Y	White flowers, red leaves, white berries	1,2,4,5	Can prune into small tree. With no pruning develops into thicket
Eve's Necklace <i>Styphnolobium affine (Sophora affinis)</i>	D	10-30'	10-20'	Spring	Y	Light pink flower	1,4,5,6	Prune for shape or to raise canopy
Hercules Club <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	D	10-25'	12-15'	Spring	Y	Whitish- yellowish flowers. Bark covered with spined growths	1,5	Don't prune
Holly, Possumhaw <i>Ilex decidua</i>	D	12-15'	12-15'	Winter	Y	Red berries	2,3,4,5,6	Prune for shape or to raise canopy
Holly, Yaupon <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	E	12-25'	8-12'	Winter		Red berries	2,4,5,6	Prune for shape only, pick prune to regain natural shape
Mexican Plum <i>Prunus mexicana</i>	D	15-35'	15-20'	Spring	Y	White-pink flowers		Prune for shape or to raise canopy
Mexican Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis var. mexicana</i>	D	10-15'	10-15'	Spring		Pink, Purple flowers	1	
Persimmon, Common <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	D	30-80'	20-35'	Spring, Summer	Y	Fragrant white to greenish flowers. Sweet orange fruit when ripe	4	Fruit drop may be messy
Persimmon, Texas <i>Diospyros texana</i>	D	10-15', can reach 35'	6-10'	Year around		Peeling bark; fragrant spring flowers	4	Prune for shape or to raise canopy

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1. Redbud, Eastern 2. Redbud, Texas 1. <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>canadensis</i> 2. <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i>	D	1. 15-25' 2. 15-20'	1. 15-20' 2. 15-20'	Spring	Y	Pinkish purple flower	1,4,5	Prune for shape or to raise canopy; remove suckers
Rusty Blackhaw <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	D	10-20'	10-15'	Late spring, Fall		Cream flower; red leaves	1,2,4,5	Prune for shape or to raise canopy right after bloom
Sumac, Evergreen <i>Rhus virens</i>	E	8-12'	8'	Fall		Fuzzy orange-red berries provide color Sep-Dec.	1,4,5	Prune for shape - shrub or tree form
Sumac, Prairie Flameleaf <i>Rhus lanceolata</i>	D	10'-20'	10-15'	Fall	Y	Bright red leaves	1,5	To prevent suckering, do not mow, graze or burn
Texas Kidneywood <i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	D	6-9', can reach 15'	6-8'	Spring, Fall		White, 3-4" flower spikes.	1,5	Prune for shape - shrub or tree form. May need to stake tree form
Texas Mountain Laurel (Mescal Bean) <i>Sophora secundiflora</i> ( <i>Calia secundiflora</i> )	E	6-12', can reach 30'	10'	Spring		Fragrant, purple flowers in drooping clusters.		Prune for shape - shrub or tree form
Wax Myrtle (Southern Bayberry) (Candleberry) <i>Morella cerifera</i> ( <i>Myrica cerifera</i> ) ( <i>Myrica cerifera</i> var. <i>pumila</i> ) ( <i>Myrica pusilla</i> )	E	6-12' can reach 20'	4-10'	Fall, Winter		Pale blue berries.	5,6	May be pruned to train into small multi-trunked tree, or left in shrub form

**KEY:**

**Evergreen/Perennial<sup>1</sup>:** E: Evergreen, SE: Semi-Evergreen, D: Deciduous, P: Perennial, A: Annual  
**Garden Lists<sup>2</sup>:** 1: Butterfly, 2: Shade, 3: Water Garden, 4: Water-Wise, 5: Wildlife Habitat, 6: Winter

**Thinking of planting something not on this list?  
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