

Vitex *Vitex agnus-castus*

Other Common Names: Texas Lilac, Hemp Tree, Sage Tree, Indian Spice, Chaste Tree



Photo: Beverlylvey/CC BY-NC-SA/DentonCountyMGA

VITEX

Vitex agnus-castus

Perennial Deciduous Shrub or Tree

 **Pollinators**



Full Sun **Water:** Medium

12-15' Tall / Wide **Color:** Violet Blue

Blooms: Summer

To avoid self-seeding, remove seedpods after flowering
 To manage size (6') cut within a few inches of the ground every
 winter, and fertilize (19-5-9) lawn fertilizer for larger bloom spikes

Grown by a Denton Master Gardener

General Information

A favorite in Texas gardens, the Texas Vitex grows quickly and offers easy maintenance. Although thought to be a native of China, India and Southern Europe, it has been cultivated in North America for over 300 years. North Texas gardeners enjoy this Texas Superstar Plant as either a large shrub or small tree; it works well in xeriscape gardens

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 7-10

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 15 feet tall by 15 feet wide

Flowers: Spikes of lavender blooms

Bloom time: May to September, heavy through summer and sporadically through fall

Leaves: Palmate, compound leaves with 5 to 7 leaflets. Spicy fragrance when crushed. Fall color is yellow

Pests and Disease Problems

None

Plant Care

Propagate Vitex from seeds or cuttings. Transplant volunteer seedlings elsewhere in the yard. Vitex grows best in full sun. Once established, Vitex requires only a little supplemental water every week or two depending on rainfall. Accepts a wide range of soil conditions. Fertilize at planting time and each spring. Trim in late winter to early spring. Prune before foliage emerges in the spring.

Warning

Sap may be an irritant and can cause blisters. According to Texas Natives.org, this plant can be invasive.

Sources for Additional Information

Missouri Botanical Garden. [Vitex agnus-castus](#)

TAMU Earth-Kind Landscaping. [Chaste Tree](#)

Texas Superstar. [Vitex, Texas Lilac, or Chaste Tree](#)