

Tree Species Recommendation from WVA Ad-Hoc Committee 2017

1. Live Oak
2. Cascalote
3. Chinese Pistache
4. Little Leaf Ash
5. Desert Willow
6. Texas Mountain Laurel
7. Chinese Elm
8. Mulga
9. Vitex
10. Eldarica Pine *
11. Rio Salado Mesquite *
12. Acacia Salsenia *
13. Tipu *

Rejected were: Anacacho Orchid, Indian Laurel, Indian Rosewood,
Texas Ebony and Tipu.

* Added by Landscape & Facilities on 01/09/19



QUERCUS FUSIFORMIS ESCARPMENT LIVE OAK

Very similar in appearance to the coastal live oak, *Quercus fusiformis* is so different in its adaptability to harsh conditions that botanists felt it warranted its own classification. The escarpment live oak is native to west Texas, and is more drought-tolerant and cold-hardy than the coastal live oak. It has performed very well during our summers here in Phoenix, and has handled the cold in Albuquerque with no damage, although it does go deciduous there. One of the few evergreen oaks (in low and middle deserts), *Q. fusiformis* grows slowly to a mature size of 50 feet tall and wide, forming a long-lived shade tree. Hardy to -10° F. USDA Zone 6.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	50 feet x 50 feet
FLOWER COLOR	None
FLOWER SEASON	None
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low, extra summer water
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	-10° F, USDA Zone 6
PRUNING	Prune to shape



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CAESALPINIA CACALACO SMOOTHIE® THORNLESS CASCALOTE

Cascalote is a great patio tree but the thorns can be an issue. This thornless introduction from Mountain States is known as Smoothie®. It produces the same large spikes of clear yellow flowers at the branch tips during the winter months, followed by attractive copper-colored seedpods. Like its parent, Smoothie® may suffer frost damage when temperatures drop below 20° F. In warmer climates it will remain evergreen, with glossy green compound leaves. Smoothie® grows best in full sun and well-drained soil.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	15-18 feet x 15-18 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Winter
EXPOSURE	Full and Reflected Sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	20° F, USDA Zone 9
PRUNING	To Shape and Thin



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PISTACIA X 'RED PUSH' RED PUSH PISTACHE

'Red Push' is a hybrid between *P. atlantica* and *P. integerrima*. This deciduous tree has a moderate growth rate, developing a broad, spreading form to 25 – 40' tall by 20 – 40' wide. The compound leaves have 10-16 leaflets, with a distinctive red color when they first emerge. The leaves mature to a medium green color, then provide another color display in the fall, changing to red, orange and yellow. Young trees may be a bit gawky, but become shapely with age. 'Red Push' is drought and cold tolerant, and can adapt to a wide variety of soils. Non-allergenic and long-lived, this is a tree that should be utilized more in the southwest as a street or lawn tree. Hardy to 0° F. USDA Zone 7.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	40 feet x 40 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Insignificant
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Moderate
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	0° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Prune to shape



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FRAXINUS GREGGII LITTLE LEAF ASH

Native to west Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, this large shrub or small tree grows at lower elevations along arroyos and canyons. It may be grown as a shrub or shaped into a small, multi-trunk tree. Bright green, fine textured foliage contrasts well with smooth gray bark. The old leaves are shed in the spring as new leaves emerge making it virtually evergreen. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by winged fruit. Irrigation will determine the growth rate. It may be grown in full sun or part shade, but requires good drainage.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	18 feet x 15 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Inconspicuous Flowers
FLOWER SEASON	March - April
EXPOSURE	Full Sun, Part Shade
WATER	Low to Moderate
GROWTH RATE	Slow to Moderate
HARDINESS	10° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Shape to tree form if desired.



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CHILOPSIS LINEARIS DESERT WILLOW

Common along the dry washes throughout the Southwest, this deciduous tree usually grows in a shrubby, multi-trunked form, although older plants may be 25 feet tall and as wide. Long, narrow bright green leaves give the tree a willowy appearance. The large orchid-like flowers provide warm season color, which attract hummingbirds and bees. The fragrant flowers range from white to dark pink. Long tan seed pods persist on the plant after flowering. Plant in full sun or part shade and provide well-drained soil.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	25 feet x 25 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Pink
FLOWER SEASON	Late Spring to Fall
EXPOSURE	Full Sun or Part Shade
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Fast
HARDINESS	-10° F, USDA Zone 6
PRUNING	Shape to form a tree



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SOPHORA SECUNDIFLORA TEXAS MOUNTAIN LAUREL

If you catch a whiff of grape bubble gum in the air during February and early March, look around to see if there is a blooming Texas Mountain Laurel nearby. The large purple clusters of wisteria-like flowers look as good as they smell! Most Texas Mountain Laurels have glossy green foliage, providing a perfect foil for these showy blossoms. Texas Mountain Laurel is evergreen, thornless and is one of the cleanest small trees around. It is a good choice for patio areas, growing slowly to 15 feet tall and wide. This popular tree is often difficult to find in large sizes, so you might have to plant a five or fifteen gallon and wait patiently for it to develop a canopy. Deep, infrequent summer irrigation will encourage faster growth. One word of caution: this plant produces thick, hard seed pods which contain poisonous orange-red seeds. However, the seed pods are very difficult to break open.

If you're concerned about the seeds, simply clip off the seed pods before they mature. Texas Mountain Laurel is very cold hardy, to 10° F, USDA Zone 7. 'Silver Peso', a clone with silver-grey foliage, is occasionally found in the nursery trade.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	15 feet x 15 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Purple
FLOWER SEASON	February - March
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low, extra summer water
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	10° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Prune to shape



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Chinese Elm Tree (*Ulmus parvifolia*)



Chinese elm trees (*Ulmus parvifolia*) in Arizona are also called evergreen elms and lace bark elms. These elms, which are native to China, Korea and Japan, were introduced into the United States and have seemed to survive well in extreme climates.

Landscapers and gardeners have planted it successfully as an ornamental shade tree on lawns, along streets and in parks.

The Chinese evergreen elm grows quickly and "can reach a height of 30 feet in as little as eight years." Soon after, it reaches its full size of 35 feet high with an equally large spread.

The leaves are shiny dark green above and pale below, and it has small, light green clustered flowers that bloom in late February to April. The bark is smooth and mottled green, gray and orange and sheds in thin flakes, exposing orange to reddish brown inner bark, with layers that look like jigsaw puzzle pieces.



ACACIA ANEURA MULGA

Native to Australia, Mulga is an evergreen shrub or small tree growing to 20 feet tall by 15 feet wide. Instead of true leaves, Mulga has leathery, dull gray-green to silvery leaf-like phyllodes. This plant grows slowly to form a dense pyramidal to rounded shape. Tiny rod-shaped golden yellow flowers appear in the spring. Plant in full sun or part shade. Be sure not to over-water! Mulga is cold hardy to 15° F, USDA Zone 8.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	20 feet x 15 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Spring
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	15° F, USDA Zone 8
PRUNING	Prune to shape



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VITEX AGNUS-CASTUS 'MONTROSE PURPLE' CHASTE TREE, MONK'S PEPPER TREE

Long, narrow spikes of purple flowers cover this plant in the summer months. These fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. After blooming, narrow spikes of round, dark brown seeds are produced. Monks in southern Europe and Asia, where this tree is native, reportedly used the seeds of this plant as a substitute for pepper. This tree is fairly messy, shedding all of its leaves in the fall, and dropping old flowers and seeds throughout the year. However, its aromatic green leaves and long, profuse bloom period go a long way toward making up for the litter! Chaste tree is very shrub-like, but can be shaped into a tree form, eventually reaching a mature size of 25 feet tall and wide. It handles hot summers like a champ, as well as tolerating temperatures below -10° F. USDA Zone 6.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	25 feet x 25 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Purple
FLOWER SEASON	Summer
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low, extra summer water
GROWTH RATE	Moderate
HARDINESS	-10° F, USDA Zone 6
PRUNING	Cut back in early spring



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Pinus eldarica Common name: *Eldarica Pine*



Sun:	Full Sun
Hardiness:	10°F
Water:	Low
Growth Rate:	Fast
Mature Size:	50' Height X 30' Width
Mature:	Irregular
Foliage:	Evergreen
Color:	Dark Green
Texture:	Fine
Flowers Color:	Brown Cones
Descriptions:	

This is a great desert pine that tolerates heat, wind and drought conditions. It has strong branches and soft needles with an open and airy canopy compared to similar trees. This tree gives off a mild, fresh fragrance and is a great choice for people looking to grow Christmas trees on marginal soils in tough climates. Eldarica pines also make good windbreaks in tough areas.

The Eldarica pine grows to a height of 30–60' and a spread of 25–40' at maturity.

This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year.

Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

The Eldarica pine grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It tolerates dry conditions very well.

Prosopis sp. 'Rio Salado' Common Name: Rio Salado Mesquite



Sun: Full Sun

Hardiness: 10°F

Water: Low

Growth Rate: Fast

Mature Size: 30' Height X 35' Width

Foliage: Semi Evergreen

Color: Dark Green

Texture: Bipinnate compound leaves to 4 inches long. Young trees often have only two pinna; however, as tree specimens mature they will grow foliage with four pinna. Leaflets, in numerous pairs, are generally only 1/2 inch long. Leaves with stipular spines present or absent; when present can grow sometimes to 2 inches long and are dangerous; medium fine texture.

Descriptions:

Fast Growing semi deciduous tree, spread to 35 feet, full sun , reflected heat ok, cream flowers in spring, thorn less variety possible

Currently very popular locally and make excellent summer shade trees if cultured correctly. Trees produce much litter throughout the year such as the obligatory undercanopy mangled carpet of seed pods in July. Young container-grown hybrid mesquite trees, less than 5 years in the landscape, can be prone to blow over during summer monsoon storms if they have girdled roots (root deformation caused by growth in nursery containers), have been heavily drip irrigated and the drip emitters are positioned close to tree trunk, or if they are planted turf as a lawn tree. Young trees should be staked securely and trained religiously to develop a central straight trunk and a strong schaffold branch architecture.

Acacia salicina Common Name: *Acacia salicina*, Willow *Acacia*



Hardiness zones: Sunset 8, 9, 13-24 USDA 9-11

Landscape Use: is a serviceable, upright, accent tree, usually single or sometimes with multiple trunks, a good tree for more narrow vertical spaces, patio tree, streetscape tree, background, screen, xeric or oasis landscapes.

Form & Character: Evergreen medium size tree, graceful, weeping with a mostly strong vertical, pendulous form, yet form and shape can be variable because of seed propagation

Growth Habit: Vigorous and fast growing tree, upright to 50 feet with less than equal spread.

Major branches are often acutely upright, but branch ends are pendulous.

Foliage/texture: Phyllodes are lanceolate to linear, ranging in color from light gray-green to glaucous blue-green, 6 to 10 inches long, sometimes cork screw like, trunk generally grayish brown, smooth when young, weak wooded; medium fine texture.

Flowers & fruits: Numerous, clustered raceme (15 to 25) of yellow-green to cream flowers in globular heads on glabrous to mealy peduncles 1/2 inch long in axillary racemes, rarely 1 to 2 flower heads in the phyllode axils. Fruits are pods of variable lengths, usually 1 to 5 inches long to 1/2 inch wide, somewhat constricted between seeds, sometimes flattened, sometimes curled.

Seasonal color: Light visual display of flowers in during winter, sometimes beginning as early as late November.

Light: Full sun

Soil: Tolerant of most local soil types, though tends to thrive less in poorly drained soils.

Additional comments: Latin "salicis" means pendulous to willow-like habit. Weeping acacia is a useful tree in urban landscapes because of upright, generally cylindrical form. Young trees are weak-wooded, vigorously growing and prone to wind damage during summer monsoon storms. Strengthen wood by watering less frequently to slow growth. Acacia is a genus of with over 1350 species and more than 2000 published botanical names.

Tipuana Tipu Common Name: Tipu tree



Hardiness zones Sunset 13-16, 18-24 USDA 9 (may freeze in coldest winters), 10-11
Landscape Use: Flowering accent, mesic shade tree, pan-tropic as a landscape tree. Tipu tree is classified as an invasive species in south Africa and is a widely planted street tree in tropical cities.

Leafs: Evergreen to partially deciduous, upright and broadly spreading with age, open umbrella-like canopy.

Growth Habit: In Phoenix this is a generally flat topped tree to 35 feet, but can eventually reach 50 feet with lesser or equal spread. Trunk and branches have a roughened bark. This tree is much larger when grown in coastal Southern California than in Arizona deserts.

Foliage/Texture: Odd pinnately compound leaves (number of leaflets, not that they look weird), 11 to 21 oblong leaflets, light green in color; medium texture.

Flowers : Yellow to apricot pea shaped flowers

Seasonal Color: Flowers in the early summer

Light: Full sun

Watering: Tipu tree needs ample regular supplemental water in Phoenix to grow a lush dense canopy and not suffer heat damage during summer.

In Phoenix, Tipu tree is a beautifully ornamental mesic (locally needs a good deal of supplemental water) shade tree of comparatively reduced vigor compared to it's habit in coastal southern California where it can become massive in size. Note this tree can seasonally produce copious foliage, flower and fruit litter.