

Native Trees and Shrubs



Common Hop Tree
Ptelea trifoliata

Average Height: 20-30 ft
Commonly known as stinking ash, this mid-sized tree is actually more closely related to citrus trees. It's an important host tree for swallowtail butterflies.

Hercules' Club
Zanthoxylum clavaherculis
Average Height: 30-40 ft
This tree gets its name from the unique large spines covering the trunk. Also called the toothache tree, the fruits and leaves cause a numbing sensation.



Gum Bumelia

Sideroxylon lanuginosum
Average Height: 12-40 ft
This plant can grow as a tall multi-stem shrub or a small tree. True to its name, it produces a gummy sap from its trunk. The fruit is eaten by birds and small animals.

Stretchberry
Forestiera pubescens
Average Height: 6-12 ft
Also called desert olive, this small tree or shrub is common along fencerows or forest edges. It is an important source of nectar for butterflies in the early spring.



Invasive Trees and Shrubs



Chinaberry Tree
Melia azedarach
Average Height: 20-40 ft

This invasive tree is originally from Asia. It can be confused with the native Soapberry. The leaves and berries from this tree are toxic but still eaten by birds.

Wax-Leaf Privet

Ligustrum lucidum

Average Height: 15-30 ft
Ligustrum are some of the most invasive shrubs in Texas. Some here at WMNM were originally planted for erosion control before becoming invasive. Birds love the berries.



Red Tip Photinia

Photinia x fraseri

Average Height: 15 ft
This plant is actually a hybrid of two wild plants native to Asia. Like privet it was brought to Texas as an ornamental plant before becoming a widespread invasive.

Heavenly Bamboo

Nandina domestica

Average Height: 5-7 ft
This small shrub is not actually a species of bamboo. It's similar to native sumac bushes but every part of this plant can be poisonous when eaten by birds and small mammals.



Waco Mammoth National Monument

Trees and Shrubs

Waco Mammoth National Monument lies at the crossroads of the Eastern forests and the Western Prairies. While the local Blackland Prairies have largely been converted to agricultural land, many of the unique plants persist.

Remember: Collecting plants is not permitted.

Hybrid Live Oak

Quercus fusiformis x virginiana

Average Height: 50 ft
In Central Texas the Texas and Southern live oaks form a stable hybrid zone. Live oaks at WMNM share traits of both species. One tree on site is over 150 years old.



Honey Mesquite

Prosopis glandulosa
Average Height: 30 ft

This relative of peas is known for its thorns and quick growth. Its sweet beans are eaten by a variety of animals and the wood is used for barbecue.

Honey Locust

Gleditsia triacanthos
Average Height: 30-75 ft

A relative of mesquite, this tree has more spines and larger bean pods. Animals eat the sweet pulp from the large maroon beans. This tree has become invasive in Australia.



Native Trees



Bois D'Arc
Maclura pomifera
Average Height: 40-60 ft
"Bowdark" or Osage Orange was favored by Native peoples for bow making. It has been suggested the fruit evolved to be spread by extinct megafauna.

Native Trees



Western Soapberry
Sapindus drummondii
Average Height: 40-50 ft
This tree is resistant to pests and disease because of the toxic alkaloid saponin. Some people historically used the berries to make soap, hence the name.

Native Trees



Buckley's Oak
Quercus buckleyi
Average Height: 50 ft
Also called the Texas Red Oak, this tree is a close relative of the Shumard Oak, and is sometimes considered the same species. This tree is rare at WNMNM.

Cedar Elm

Ulmus crassifolia
Average Height: 50-70 ft
Texas' most common species of elm. It can be identified by its small leaves with a rough texture. Often grows in low, flat areas with native "cedars."



Sugar Hackberry



Celtis laevigata
Average Height: 60-80 ft
Also called Sugarberry, this tree is common in low-lying areas across Central Texas. The red berries and are eaten by songbirds and other wildlife. Some of these trees can exceed 90ft.

Box Elder

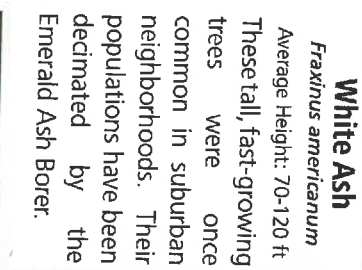
Acer negundo
Average Height: 50 ft
This tree is actually a fast-growing species of maple. The wood has been popular for carving for thousands of years. Small saplings are similar to poison ivy.



Eastern Red Cedar



Juniperus virginiana
Average Height: 20-50 ft
This juniper species is the most common conifer in the Eastern United States. More "christmas tree" or cone shaped than Ashe Juniper. The wood was used to make pencils.



White Ash
Fraxinus americana
Average Height: 70-120 ft
These tall, fast-growing trees were once common in suburban neighborhoods. Their populations have been decimated by the Emerald Ash Borer.



Texas Ash
Fraxinus albicans
Average height: 30 ft
Smaller and rounder-leaved than its eastern cousin, this tree prefers drier habitats. So far, the Texas Ash has not been hit by the Emerald Ash Borer, which is restricted to East Texas.

Photos by: Rob Bradford and Naturalist Users: Ron Stephens, btk-hix, Beck Evans, Linda Jo Conn, socialiefrwartor, fiddlerman, Jhamby, Eugenia Mendicla Gonzalez, sageegansattimachine, Espeth Shipton, Rebecca Cowser, Mike Farley, Clay S, Nicholas Cowley, and Ranger_Rachel



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Waco Mammoth National Monument
6220 Steinbeck Bend Dr
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www.nps.gov/waco

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Eastern Cottonwood

Populus deltoides
Average Height: 100 ft
This tree is common along rivers and creeks, and named for its cotton-like seeds. The Alamo in San Antonio is named for these trees called alamo in Spanish.



Ashe Juniper
Juniperus ashei
Average Height: 30 ft
Often called "mountain cedar," it is found in huge stands in Central Texas. Young trees are shrubby. The bark is used for nests by the endangered Golden-cheeked warbler.



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