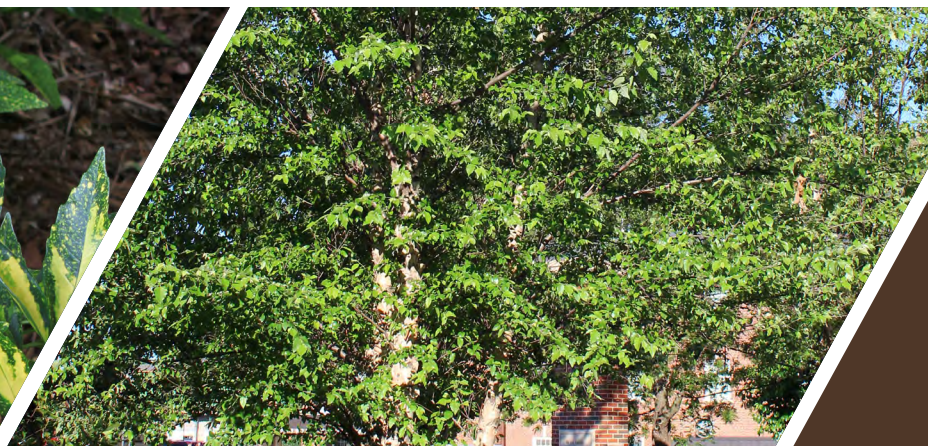


Oklahoma Proven

Plant Selections for Oklahoma
1999-2026



EXTENSION

Introduction

Started in 1999, Oklahoma Proven is a plant evaluation and marketing program designed to help consumers select the best plants for their Oklahoma gardens. The goal has been to select plants that are tolerant of the varied and challenging environmental conditions found throughout Oklahoma, since using well-adapted plants should lead to greater gardening success and more environmentally friendly gardens. Drought resistance has become an important selection criteria for landscape materials, and many of the selections highlighted in this guide are recognized for their low-water usage. The following symbols are used to feature special attributes of the plants.



Native: Plant indigenous to the continental U.S. or a cultivar or hybrid derived from native plants.



Wildscape: Plant possesses one or more characteristics ideal for habitation by birds, butterflies or other animals.



Drought resistant: After initial establishment period (up to two years), plant can withstand short-term drought.



Collector's Choice: This plant will do well in Oklahoma but may need special placement or a little extra care. It will be very rewarding and impressive in the garden.

The coordinators of the Oklahoma Proven program would like to thank the following for their cooperation and/or financial support:

- Current and Past Executive and Advisory Committee Members
- Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
- Oklahoma Extension Service, Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association
- The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University
- The City of Oklahoma City Utilities Department

Although the plants presented here are among the best for use in Oklahoma, this is just a place to start. There are many plants suited for use in Oklahoma and it is always imperative to match the environmental tolerance of the plant with the environmental conditions in a particular garden or even a particular spot in the garden.

Oklahoma Proven plants have been selected to withstand environmental stress, but remember that all plants need special attention during the establishment phase or during periods of environmental extremes.

For more information, visit: <https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/oklahoma-proven>

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2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

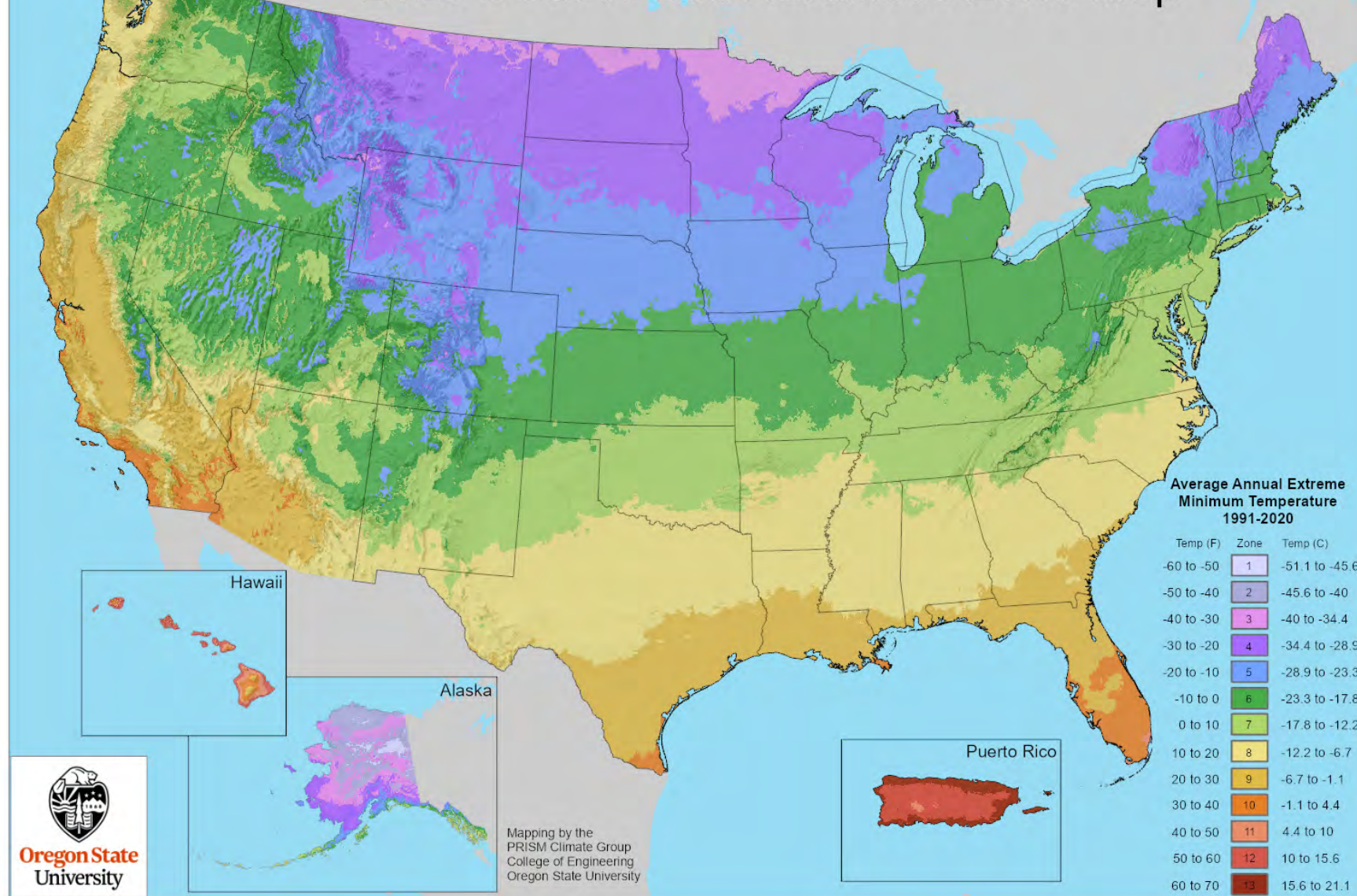


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Annual Vinca

Catharanthus roseus

Annual vinca, also goes by Madagascar periwinkle and other common names. Annual vinca tolerates the heat and humidity of the southeast. It is tolerant of low fertility soils and is drought tolerant. Full sun and warm soil temperature is required for this species to thrive. Annual vinca is subject to chill injury, which predisposes them to root diseases. Avoid planting too early in the spring. Flower colors come in shades of white, pink, red and purple. Plants grow 6 inches to 12 inches tall and 8 inches to 24 inches wide, depending on cultivar. Improved cultivars provide an abundance of flowers on stocky plants and disease resistance, which is very important with this species. Improved cultivars include plants in the Cora series, Mediterranean series, Titan series and many others.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained, slightly dry

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Blanket Flower

Gaillardia

Gaillardia is a genus of native wildflower that has captivated gardeners with its bright red and yellow flowers and ability to bloom in hot, dry conditions. The native species, *Gaillardia pulchella*, is Oklahoma's state wildflower and makes an excellent garden plant. Hybrids (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*) and new cultivars have been introduced that expand the color range and form of *Gaillardia* including: 'Goblin' (dwarf form), 'Fanfare' (interesting trumpet-shaped flowers around the central disc), 'Arizona Sun' (compact plants with a long period of bloom) and 'Summer's Kiss' (yellow-apricot flowers), among others. *Gaillardia* is often a perennial but also reseeds readily, creating drifts of color in the garden or meadow. Allow the seed heads to dry on the plant for maximum reseeding and floral display the following summer.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Brazilian Verbena (improved cultivars)

Verbena bonariensis

Commonly called Brazilian vervain, this plant is a rapid-growing, clump-forming tender perennial. Plants typically form a 1-foot tall basal clump of dark green leaves from which rise erect, slender, wiry, branching stems to 3.5 feet tall bearing clusters (to 2 inches across) of tiny rose-violet flowers. Though a tender perennial, it often grows as an annual in Oklahoma. If planted in sheltered locations with southern exposures, plants can survive mild winters. Even if plants do not survive winter, they often remain in gardens for a number of years through self-seeding. Plants have no serious insect or disease problems, though watch for powdery mildew. This species is very heat and drought resistant and makes a great cut flower and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Improved cultivars include 'Little One,' 'Lollipop' and Meteor Shower.

Exposure: Full sun/part shade

Soil: Poor soils, good drainage

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Cape Plumbago

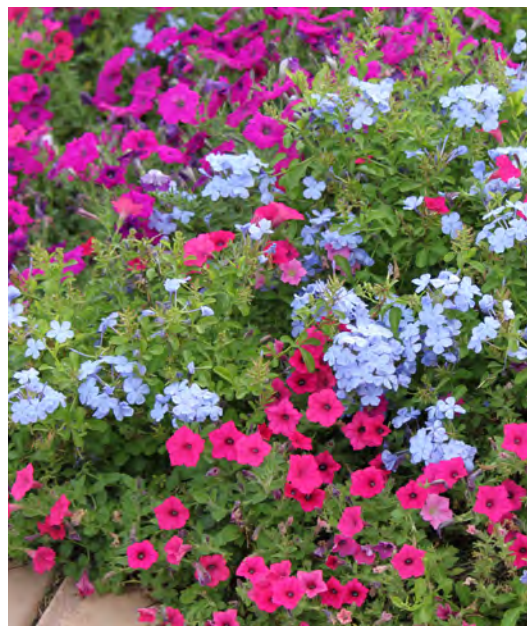
Plumbago auriculata

Grows best in organically rich, fertile, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Site in locations protected from strong winds. During the growing season, it does best in consistently moist soils, but established plants are moderately drought tolerant. Clusters (terminal racemes) of pale sky-blue phlox-like flowers bloom freely throughout the growing season. 'Alba' is a white flowering form. 'Imperial Blue' produces large clusters of deep sky-blue flowers. 'Monott' has huge clusters of vivid deep blue flowers. Flowers attract butterflies. When overwintering as a houseplant, bring indoors before first fall frost to a bright sunny room. Cut back stems hard in late winter to encourage new growth for the coming season. When overwintering as a dormant plant in a container, cut stems back and store in a cool, dry and dark corner of a basement or frost-free garage.

Exposure: Full sun to shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Coleus

Plectranthus scuteleriodes

Coleus is a time-honored plant that is quite diverse and full of character. It is well known for its attractive foliage colors, patterns and forms and has long been a great color plant for shade as well as indoor as a houseplant. Many cultivars are now full sun tolerant and are one of Oklahoma's best full sun foliage plants. Remove flower spikes as they appear. Pinch plant stem tips to keep plants compact and to promote bushiness. Cultivars range in size from dwarf 6 inches tall plants to large mounded 36 inches tall plants. If grown as a houseplant, it requires bright light. Aphids, whiteflies and spider mites, especially on indoor plants can sometimes be a problem.

Exposure: Full sun to shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Corkscrew Rush

Juncus effusus 'Big Twister'

Corkscrew rush with its uniquely twisted stems, though relatively small (18 inches to 24 inches high and wide), still commands attention in any garden space. The stems curl and spiral, creating a tangled but showy mass. Corkscrew rush grows in full sun or part shade and prefers moist soils. Happy even submerged in water, it is perfect for a water garden. Corkscrew rush also is an excellent accent plant for containers. Though considered hardy to about zone 6, it tends to be more of a tender perennial in our area. Its annual nature may be due to the dry winters and the drastic temperature fluctuations often experienced in Oklahoma.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Very moist to wet, acidic

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Cuphea (species and cultivars)

Cuphea spp.

Cuphea is a genus of about 260 plants native to the warm temperate and tropical regions of the Americas. Depending on the species and cultivar, they go by several common names such as firecracker plant, cigar flower, Mexican-heather, bat flower, bunny ears, candy corn plant and false heather. Cuphea is a tender perennial grown as an annual in Oklahoma. It is low maintenance and it is tolerant to heat and drought. Plant foliage is bright green to blue-green and typically glossy. Although the flowers are small, they are abundant and provide a spectacular show all summer long with no need to deadhead. Plants come in a variety of forms with a variety of flower colors and forms that are vivid and produce a sweet nectar that attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained; tolerates drier soil after establishment

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Dakota Gold Sneezeweed

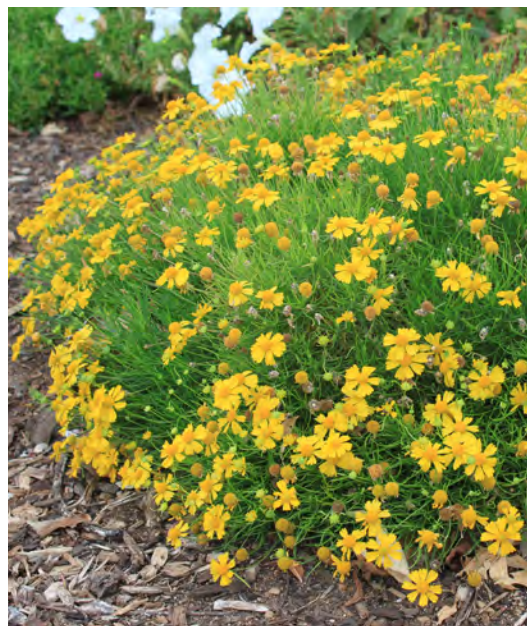
Helienium 'Dakota Gold'

Common names for *Helienium* include sneezeweed and bitterweed. It is a native wildflower of Oklahoma. 'Dakota Gold' is a cultivar with excellent ornamental qualities that is also very tough and tolerates heat and dry conditions. 'Dakota Gold' grows as low, 6 inch to 8 inch mounded cushions of fine, dark green foliage covered with golden yellow flowers all summer long. 'Dakota Gold' looks great in beds, containers, rock gardens, borders and as an accent.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Diamond Frost Euphorbia

Euphorbia 'Inneuphdia'

Diamond Frost euphorbia is a fine-textured mounding plant used as an annual in Oklahoma. The simple white flowers bloom from spring until first frost and the plant forms a 2- to 3-foot sphere. Diamond Frost can be used as a mass planting, alone in a container or mixed with almost any other plant. Its fine sprays of foliage and flowers will weave through other plants, making it a perfect complement for almost anything from poinsettias to petunias. It is an excellent background plant, filler or specimen, proving to be an extremely beautiful and versatile introduction.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Fan Flower

Scaevola aemula

Fan flower is an evergreen tropical used as an annual in temperate climates. This low-growing plant carpets the ground with flowers all season long when grown in full sun. Its primary flower colors are pink, yellow, lavender and white. It prefers a moist, well-drained soil but is quite drought tolerant once established. Dwarf and standard sizes are available.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Firebush

Hamelia patens

This Central and South American native is a small tree when grown in the Deep South, but is best used as a heat-tolerant annual in Oklahoma. The lush green foliage can produce a dense mound over 3 feet high in full sun. Color is added by the interesting orange-red flowers and the reddish tinge on the leaf petioles. Firebush thrives in the summer heat and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Firecracker Flower

Crossandra infundibuliformis

Firecracker flower is native to India and Sri Lanka, where it is a tropical evergreen subshrub that grows 1 foot to 3 feet tall. Flowers are apricot to salmon pink in color and form in terminal racemes. Yellow- and red-flowered forms are also available. Plants bloom throughout the summer and attract pollinators. Leaves of firecracker flower are shiny dark green. 'Orange Marmalade' has long-lasting blooms on a plant that thrives with heat and humidity. Large clusters of frilly, bright orange flowers shine against the glossy green foliage. Firecracker flower prefers light, organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun or part shade but will tolerate a bright full shade area. Plants thrive in warm, humid weather and have no serious insect or disease problems. Firecracker flower is beautiful in beds, borders, containers or as a houseplant.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Globe Amaranth

Gomphrena

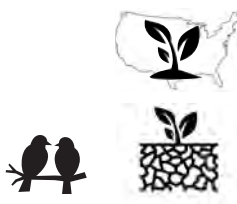
Globe amaranth is a beautiful and tough annual grown for its globe-shaped flower heads that bloom all summer and come in many bright colors, including pink, red, purple, lilac, violet, orange and white. Globe amaranth is heat and drought tolerant but grows best when regular moisture is available. Globe amaranth has no serious pest problems requiring very little maintenance. It does well in beds, borders and containers in full sun and attracts pollinators.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Average, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Magilla Perilla

Perilla frutescens

Known for its brightly colored leaves of dark purple to hot pink and green, Magilla perilla is a vigorous annual. Magilla perilla is a coleus look-alike, is in the same family as coleus and has similar characteristics and growing needs. The species, *Perilla frutescens*, can be weedy, but Magilla is well behaved due to sterile seeds. It grows into a 24-inch tall mound and is heat tolerant. Magilla perilla looks great in beds, mixed borders and is spectacular in a container planting.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual

Margarita Sweet Potato

Ipomoea batatas 'Margarita'

Margarita sweet potato is a spreading vine with chartreuse leaves. It is excellent as a ground cover or as a potted plant. This striking cultivar tolerates full sun to partial shade and can grow to 8 inches tall and 20 feet long. It is shown here with other Oklahoma Proven selections, fan flower and purple fountain grass.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Mexican Zinnia

Zinnia angustifolia

Several cultivars of Mexican zinnia are available with white, yellow, pink or orange flowers that bloom all summer. All thrive in the heat, are mildew resistant and make excellent 1 foot tall compact plants for containers, bedding or edging.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Ornamental Pepper Cultivars

Capsicum annuum

Ornamental pepper is a beautiful and tough annual grown for its colorful fruits, attractive foliage and compact habit. Fruit develop early on and last all summer and come in many bright colors, including red, purple, orange and yellow. Ornamental peppers are heat and slightly drought tolerant but grow best when regular moisture is available. Plants also benefit from regular feeding throughout the growing season. When in flower, ornamental peppers can attract pollinators. Ornamental peppers are relatively pest free requiring very little maintenance. It does well in beds, borders and containers in full sun. Plants in containers can be moved indoors for the winter holidays.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Average, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual, indoor plant



Pink Crystals Ruby Grass

Melinis nerviglumis 'Savannah'

Pink crystals ruby grass is a warm-season grass that likes it hot and performs best in those conditions. Growing only 18 to 22 inches tall, it is an attractive ornamental grass with blue-green foliage and ruby-pink blooms with glistening silky hairs in late spring. Flowers retain their color even when dried and may be used for cut flower arrangements. Pink crystals ruby grass is excellent in beds, borders and is spectacular in a container planting.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor Zinnia

Zinnia hybrida

This gorgeous zinnia starts the season with a bold vibrant red center ring surrounded by golden-yellow outer petals. As the season progresses, the aging flowers morph into soft, beautiful shades of apricot, salmon and dusty rose to bring a plethora of color to the garden, all from one variety! Trial garden visitors clamored over this floriferous and compact plant during the summer trials noting how well the plant continued to bloom new flowers over old so there was never a decline in the beauty presented by Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor. Does well in well-drained soil and is disease tolerant. Attracts pollinators. Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor is also the recipient of the Fleuroselect Gold Medal award for performance in European trials.

Exposure: Full sun, part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Purple Fountain Grass

Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'

Growing 3 feet to 4 feet high, this heat- and drought-tolerant plant blooms all summer until frost. It provides a dramatic accent in sunny beds and borders. It has purple leaves and bristled flower spikes, providing color and texture throughout the season.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Silver Falls Dichondra

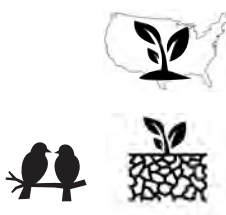
Dichondra argentea 'Silver Falls'

'Silver Falls' dichondra was selected for its very low-growing, creeping, trailing habit and beautiful silvery gray leaves that are shaped like miniature lily pads. 'Silver Falls' is actually a selection of a dichondra species native to southwest Texas and Mexico, so it is quite heat and drought tolerant. Growing only 2 inches tall and 3 feet to 4 feet wide, it is an attractive groundcover, but is also spectacular in a container planting or hanging basket, spilling over a retaining wall or when used in a rock garden.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Spider Flower

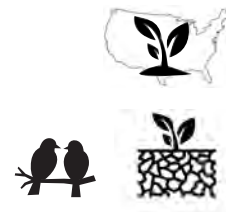
Cleome hybrids

Spider flower is a unique plant with palmately compound leaves, and interesting, fragrant flowers with an old-fashion look. Flowers have abnormally long stamens that give the flower a frilly look and is likely where the common name of spider flower comes from, since they resemble spider legs. Flower colors come in shades of white, pink and purple. Plants can grow 3 feet to 6 feet tall, depending on cultivar. Improved cultivars provide an abundance of flowers on stocky plants. Improved cultivars include plants in the Sparkler series; the Spirit series; Senorita Rosalita (vivid pink blooms); and Senorita Blanca (white blooms with pale lavender blush). Spider flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds and go well with a cottage style, wildflower design or mixed border.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Spilanthes

Acemella oleracea 'Peek-A-Boo'

'Peek-A-Boo' spilanthes was selected for its yellow flowers, each with a red eye poking up out of the foliage. The green foliage has a purple tinge in full sun, turning more purple as fall approaches. The foliage can be used in salads or cooked as a green. Spilanthes is also known as the toothache plant because it has been used to numb pain. In the garden, it is a great conversation piece when combined with other plants in a mixed container or it can be used as a flowering groundcover. It grows 12 inches to 15 inches tall and spreads 24 inches to 30 inches.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual

Star Flower, Graffiti Series

Pentas lanceolata

Considered to be the most uniform in habit as well as bloom time, Graffiti comes in several colors including pink, purple, bright red, rose and white. It grows to 16 inches high and 12 inches wide, making it a great plant for containers or a flower bed. Graffiti plants are very heat- and drought-resistant and make great cut flowers. With its tightly clustered flowers that sit above the foliage in bright colors that have an abundance of nectar, Graffiti pentas are a sure attractant for butterflies and hummingbirds throughout the summer months. Like all pentas, Graffiti prefers soil that is not too rich; if it's a bit on the dry side, all the better. Heat, sun and good drainage will have the plants blooming heartily all summer long.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moderately moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Summer Snapdragon

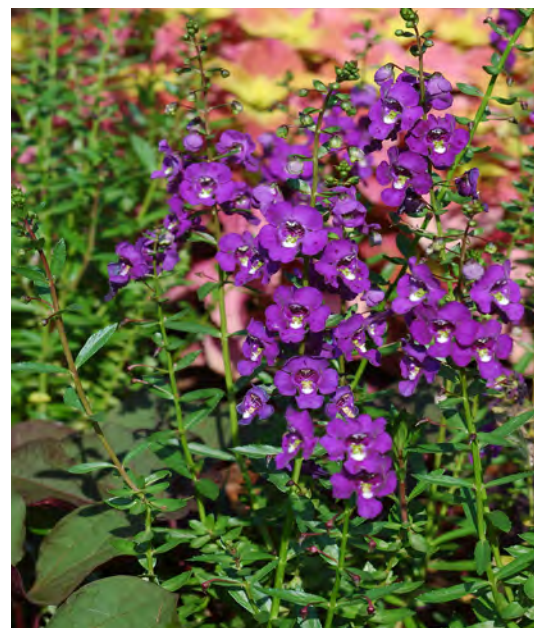
Angelonia angustifolia

Summer snapdragon is a tropical subshrub that can be used as an annual in Oklahoma and will bloom from summer until the first frost. Orchid-like flowers are produced on 2-foot-tall spikes. Depending on cultivar, flower color ranges from blue to purple, pink or white, with bicolor forms also available. Summer snapdragon may be used as a bedding plant, add color to a mixed border or a container. It is drought tolerant and loves full sun and summer heat.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia

Petunia 'Ustuni6001'

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum is a vigorous petunia that requires very little care once established. Unlike some other petunias, Vista Bubblegum is a self-dead-heading variety that blooms continuously until the first killing frost. With its bright bubblegum pink flowers, Vista Bubblegum is a mounding, trailing form that grows to 18 to 24 inches high and just as wide. It looks spectacular spilling over the edge of a container or retaining wall, or spreading out in a flower bed. For the most vigorous plants, fertilize them with a slow-release fertilizer at planting, then follow up throughout the summer with a water-soluble fertilizer applied when watering. Even though no dead-heading is needed, Vista Bubblegum responds well to a light trimming in early July.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual



Wishbone Flower Summer Wave Series

Torenia

The Summer Wave series is a collection of hybrid *Torenia*, or wishbone flower, that thrive in the summer heat. The plants form a mound that is 6 inches high and 12 inches wide that is great for the border, in a pot or mixed with other plants in a larger container. The Summer Wave series is comprised of the following cultivars: 'Amethyst,' 'Blue,' 'Large Violet' and 'Lavender Blue.' Each produces flowers from spring until fall, and each flower has a wishbone shape at its center, thus the name.



Exposure: Partial shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual

Yellow Bells

Tecoma stans

Yellow bells is a tropical shrub used as an annual in Oklahoma. It can reach a height of 3 feet and produces striking yellow flowers above glossy green leaves from summer until frost. Give this plant a southern exposure; it loves the heat and sun.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: Use as an annual

Anise Hyssop

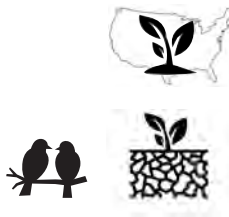
Agastache foeniculum 'Golden Jubilee'

'Golden Jubilee' is a cultivar of the North American native commonly known as anise hyssop. It was selected for its chartreuse foliage, was named to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's golden jubilee and was the 2003 All-America Selections flower award winner. Reaching 2 feet tall and 1 foot wide, 'Golden Jubilee' produces light purple flower spikes from early summer to fall. Although a perennial, it will reseed in the garden and new plants also will be golden. As an added bonus, brushing against the foliage releases the plant's licorice scent.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Perennials

Arkansas Bluestar

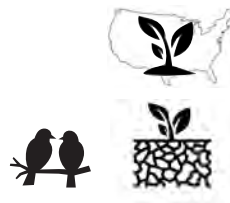
Amsonia hubrichtii

Arkansas bluestar is native to eastern Oklahoma and Arkansas, but does well throughout the state. It is tolerant of moist soils and is quite drought tolerant once established. Flowers are sky blue, star-shaped and develop in clusters at the end of each branch in early spring. Leaves are needle-like on upright stems that sway in the breeze, providing a soft, wispy appearance. Foliage is bright green in summer and then seemingly overnight in fall, it explodes to a golden yellow. *Amsonia* grows to 3 feet high. Plant in masses for best effect. Can be used in mixed borders, meadows, native gardens and open woods.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Dry to moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Autumn Sage

Salvia greggii 'Pink Preference'

'Pink Preference' is a cultivar of autumn sage that was selected for its bright pink flowers. Like the species, it is a heat- and drought-tolerant perennial that starts blooming in the spring, but blooms most in the autumn as other flowers in the garden start to fade. It forms a 2 foot to 3 foot mound and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden. Pruning to 6 inches high each spring will help keep autumn sage dense and full.



Perennials

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Catmint

Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'

'Walker's Low' catmint was the Perennial Plant of the Year in 2007 and is an easy-to-grow, pest-free perennial. This hybrid *Nepeta* develops into a mound of aromatic, grayish-green foliage. Lavender-blue flowers appear in spring and continue to bloom if properly pruned by trimming after initial flowering. 'Walker's Low' grows 1 foot to 2 feet high and 1.5 feet to 3 feet wide and can be used as edging or in a border, herb or rock garden, naturalized area, as groundcover or is quite attractive spilling over the edge of a wall. *Nepeta* attracts bees and butterflies. It also tolerates some shade; dry, rocky soil; and is quite drought and deer resistant.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 8



Coral Bells or Alum Root

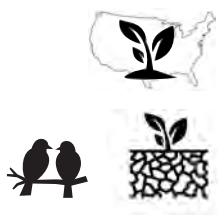
Heuchera cultivars

Coral bells are a versatile perennial with attractive foliage and bell-shaped flowers native to North America. Foliage comes in an array of colors and forms and is evergreen to semi-evergreen, depending on winter temperatures, often providing interest year-round. The leaves are the real show of this plant, and in addition to the many colors they come in, some have marbled patterns, dramatic veining, silver overlays and ruffled edges. Flowers are produced on wiry stems above the foliage in the spring to early summer. Flower colors can range from pink to red and white and are favored by butterflies and bees. It prefers fertile, moist soil but is quite drought tolerant once established; however, due to shallow roots, water during dry spells. Avoid wet, soggy soils particularly in winter.

Exposure: Full sun/part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4 to 9



Perennials

Evening Primrose

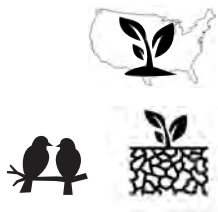
Oenothera macrocarpa 'Comanche Campfire'

This species of evening primrose is native to western Oklahoma and 'Comanche Campfire' was selected for its ability to produce beautiful yellow flowers above red petioles and silver foliage. It is touted as a xeriscape perennial since it thrives in well-drained soil and, once established, requires little moisture. As a low-growing, clumping perennial, 'Comanche Campfire' reaches a height of 15 inches to 18 inches and spreads to 2 feet. Use it in a rock garden or along the edge of a perennial bed.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



False indigo

Baptisia species

False indigo is a native perennial that can grow 2-4 feet high with colorful flowers in late spring to early summer. Following the flowers are inflated seed pods that turn black as they ripen with seeds rattling when shaken. Several species grow in Oklahoma providing flower colors from blue, purple, yellow and white. Hybrids have been developed providing plants with sturdy stems that are more floriferous with many colors and shades ranging from blue to purple, pink, red, white and yellow. False indigo is a legume making it able to tolerate nutrient-poor soils by fixing its own nitrogen. Plants also develop deep tap roots making them extremely drought tolerant. Baptisia grows best in full sun but will tolerate light shade, but blooms are reduced in shade. False indigo is highly attractive to bumble bees and is the host plant for several butterflies. Seed are sometimes consumed by game birds. Baptisia is a great choice for perennial borders, native plantings or pollinator gardens.



Exposure: Sun to part shade

Soil: Dry to medium moisture, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 9



Gaura

Gaura lindheimeri 'Siskiyou Pink'

Gaura is a drought-tolerant perennial that thrives in the heat and humidity of the South. Although the species produces white flowers, the cultivar 'Siskiyou Pink' has bright pink flowers that appear on airy, 3- to 4-foot-tall sprays early in the spring. Blooming will continue until fall if old flower spikes are removed.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5



Giant Coneflower

Rudbeckia maxima

Giant coneflower is native to eastern Oklahoma but does well throughout the state. It is tolerant of moist soils and is quite drought tolerant once established. Giant coneflower has waxy, silvery-blue foliage. Flowers have bright yellow ray flowers that dangle from a large, upright, dark brown cone on stems that reach 5 feet to 6 feet high. Giant coneflower blooms in early summer but dead-heading the spent blossoms will encourage another flush of blooms in late summer. Plant in masses for best effect. Can be used in mixed borders, meadows, native gardens and open woods. This species makes a strong vertical statement in the landscape.



Perennials

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 8



Golden Variegated Sweet Flag

Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'

Acorus gramineus is commonly called grassy-leaved sweet flag. It is native to wetland areas of China, Japan, Korea, India, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines. 'Ogon' is a dwarf plant that features iris-like tufts of narrow, grass-like, variegated leaf blades (6 inches to 12 inches tall and ¼ inch wide), which are striped with yellow and green but primarily appear as yellow. Sweet flag is easily grown in average, medium-to-wet soils in full sun to part shade and performs well in both boggy conditions and consistently moist garden soils. Never allow soils to dry out. Plants appreciate some relief from hot summer sun (e.g., afternoon shade or filtered sun) when grown in hot summer climates. Foliage is sweetly fragrant when bruised (hence the common name of sweet flag).



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium to wet

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9

Hellebore

Helleborus

Hellebores, also known as lenten rose, belongs to a genus of mostly evergreen herbaceous plants that are prized for their ability to flower in late winter. The flower stalks rise out of the leaf litter or through the snow to display nodding flowers that range in color from green to white, yellow or even purple with some cultivars producing spotted flowers. Recently, hybrids have been selected for outward-facing flowers and brighter colors, increasing their garden value. Hellebores are tough plants requiring little special care other than shade and pruning of old foliage. They are excellent for the woodland garden as understory plants where they will be protected by shade.

Exposure: Shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Indian Pink

Spigelia marilandica

Indian pink, also called pinkroot and woodland pinkroot, is a native species to the southeastern U.S. It is an excellent plant for shady gardens. Indian pink is an upright, multi-stemmed clump-forming perennial that is 1 foot to 2 feet tall and 1 ½ feet wide with bright, glossy green leaves. Numerous flowers appear in late spring/early summer and are tubular, deep red with a contrasting yellow throat that flares at the tip to form five-pointed lobes (a yellow star). Indian pink grows in part shade to full shade in moist soils, but does really well in full sun and is quite drought tolerant once established. Use Indian pink in a woodland garden, perennial border, rain garden or native garden. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the beautiful, tubular flowers.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Dry to moist

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Japanese Painted Fern

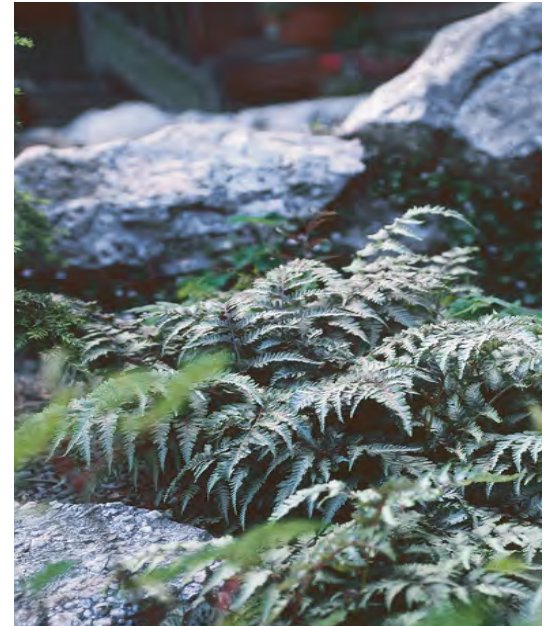
Athyrium nipponicum

Japanese painted fern is a deciduous perennial growing to 12 inches tall. It can be used in shaded perennial gardens or massed as a ground cover. Cultivars are available, each with its own pattern of red and silver variegation.

Exposure: Part to full shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Perennials

Mexican Feather Grass

Nassella tenuissima

Mexican feather grass is a fine-textured clumping perennial that waves its silvery flowers in the slightest breeze. It is drought tolerant and tough despite its refined appearance. It forms a clump almost 2 feet tall and 3 feet wide as the leaves arch to the sides. It tolerates a wide variety of conditions, but prefers well-drained soils. It does not like to be cut to the ground in spring like other grasses. Remove only the top third of the plant to rejuvenate. It is native to prairies in Texas, New Mexico and south to central Mexico. It may reseed in the garden.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 7



Milkweed

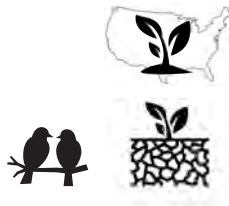
Asclepias species

Asclepias species are the milkweeds. Many are native to America and are well adapted to many soil types. Best known as the host plant for monarch butterflies, milkweeds have gained a lot of attention lately. Efforts across the country to reestablish lost habitat to help save the declining monarch population is taking the front stage for gardeners, butterfly enthusiasts and conservationists. Butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is the most popular with bright orange to yellow-orange flowers on upright stems growing 1 to 3 feet tall. Butterfly milkweed was named the 2017 Perennial of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. Milkweeds in general grow in average, dry-to-medium, well-drained soils in full sun, are very drought tolerant and have no serious pest problems. Grow in native plant gardens, wild gardens, meadows, naturalized areas, perennial borders and cottage style gardens.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 10



Mugwort

Artemisia 'Powis Castle'

With dense mounds of lacy silver foliage, this perennial reaches a height of 3 feet tall and remains evergreen during mild winters. It is prized for its feathery foliage and drought tolerance.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5



Narrow-Leaf Ironweed

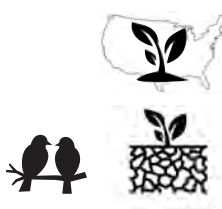
Vernonia lettermannii

Narrow-leaf or Letterman's ironweed is an upright, clump-forming, herbaceous perennial native to rocky outcrops, floodplains and river scours in west-central Arkansas and adjacent areas of Oklahoma. Plants can reach around 2 feet tall with an equal spread. The finely textured leaves are thin and narrow. Flat-topped inflorescences of bright purple flowers appear in mid to late summer. Highly attractive to humming-birds, butterflies and other pollinators. Easily grown in medium to dry, well-draining soils of average fertility in full sun. Tolerant of various soil conditions, including hot, dry, rocky and alkaline. Also tolerant of occasional flooding and drought once established. A rugged perennial for fine texture in pollinator gardens, native plantings, slopes, rock gardens and xeriscapes. 'Iron Butterfly' is a vigorous cultivar selected for its compact, densely mounding habit and showy, long-lasting display of purple blooms.

Exposure: Sun

Soil: Dry to medium moisture; tolerates drought, erosion, dry, shallow-rocky

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Perennials

Perennial Plumbago

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

Perennial plumbago, also known as leadwort, is a neat, well-behaved plant that grows 8 to 12 inches high and spreads to 18 inches, making it welcome at the front of a mixed border or massed as a ground cover. Its cold hardiness is much better than true plumbago. The terminal clusters of blue flowers appear from summer through fall when the foliage turns a bronze-red before going dormant for the winter. It is best to use perennial plumbago in a well-drained soil and to cut old stems to the ground each spring for vigorous regrowth.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5



Phlox, Volcano series

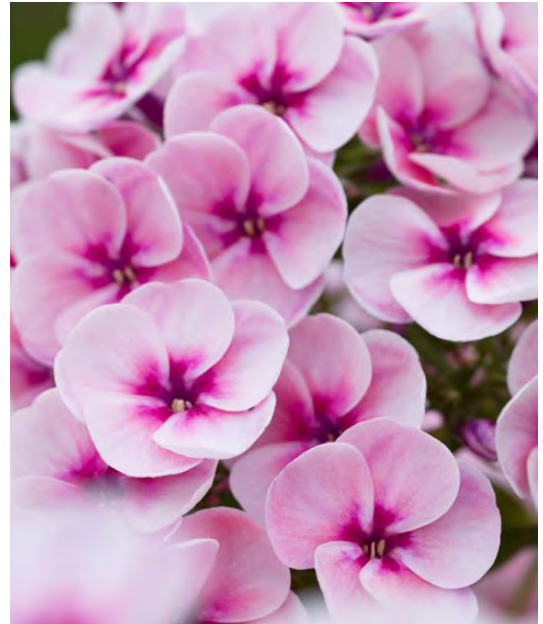
Phlox paniculata

Phlox Volcano is more compact, fragrant and powdery mildew tolerant than other garden phlox types. Plants develop sturdy stems 24 to 28 inches tall, with deep green leaves and an abundance of large flowers that appear from June to September if plants are cut back after initial bloom. Flower colors range from red, pink, ruby, white, lavender and purple; flowers may also have eyes of pink, red or white. They can be bicolored such as with 'Lilac Splash.' It does not mind most soils, but needs well-drained soil; irrigate with soaker or drip irrigation to keep foliage dry. Full sun is the best exposure for Volcano phlox, but it will grow in part shade. Too much shade and poor air circulation increases chances of mildew developing, though it does not seem to inhibit flowering. Once established, phlox is very adaptable. It is grown as an accent, in groups or masses. It also works well in native plant gardens, wild gardens, meadows, naturalized areas, perennial borders and cottage style gardens. Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the colorful, fragrant flowers.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 10



Prinz Heinrich Japanese Anemone

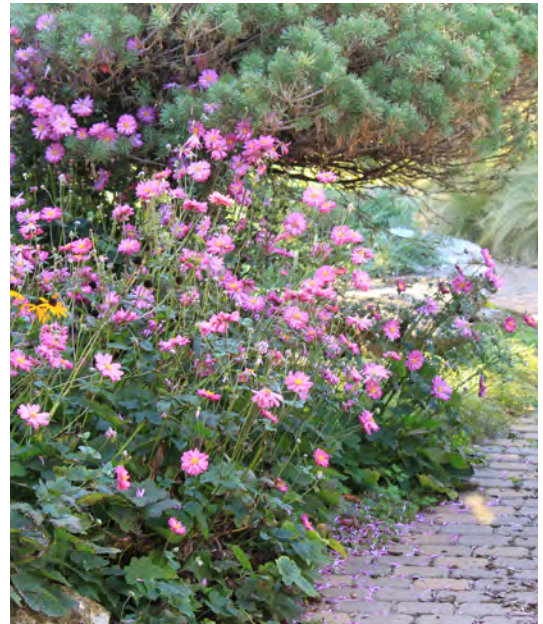
Anemone hupehensis var. *japonica* 'Prinz Heinrich'

Prinz Heinrich Japanese anemone is an excellent perennial for late summer to early fall color that grows best in a part shade location or spot protected from the late afternoon sun and winds; in full sun and dry conditions, the foliage will often burn. It prefers fertile, consistently moist soil that is neutral to slightly alkaline with good drainage; avoid wet soils, particularly in winter. In too much shade the flower stems tend to flop. Flowers are semi-double, rose-pink, with narrow overlapping tepals surrounding a central cluster of golden-yellow stamens. Flowers are produced on long, upright, wiry but graceful branching flower stems that arise above the basal foliage. The plant grows to about 28 inches high and spreads by rhizomes.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8



Purple Coneflower

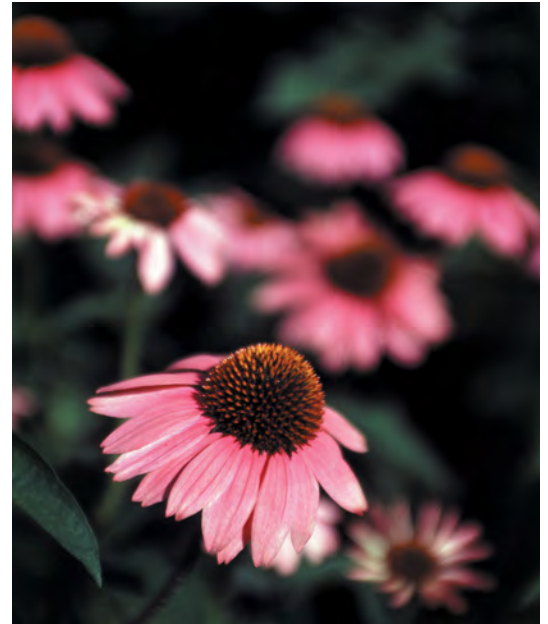
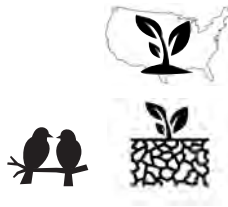
Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'

'Magnus' purple coneflower is known for its rose-colored flowers that appear in early summer and sporadically until frost. 'Magnus' is a clump-forming perennial that grows 2 feet to 3 feet tall. Use this heat- and drought-tolerant perennial in a native plant garden, perennial border or as a cut flower.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 3



Perennials

Rattlesnake Master

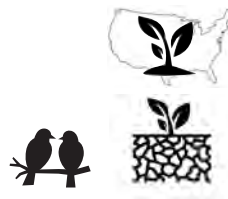
Eryngium yuccifolium

Rattlesnake master is a native species to the tallgrass prairies. Leaves of rattlesnake master are parallel-veined, bristly-edged, sword-shaped, medium green leaves (up to 3 feet long) and resemble those of yucca. Flowers are greenish-white and tightly packed into globular, 1-inch diameter heads resembling thistles. The flowering heads attract many kinds of insects. Seed heads persist and provide winter interest. Rattlesnake master prefers dryish, sandy soils, but tolerates clay and shallow-rocky soils. Plants tend to open up and flop in overly fertile soils or in anything less than full sun. This is a taprooted plant, which transplants poorly and is best left undisturbed once established. Use rattlesnake master in a xeriscape garden, perennial border or native garden. Group plants in naturalized areas for best affect.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Dry to moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 8



Sedges

Carex species

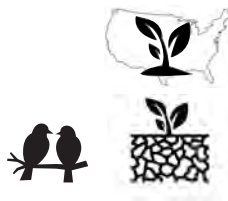
Sedges belong to the genus *Carex*, which is a genus of many species, most from wet areas such as bogs. Sedges have triangular, grass-like stems and panicles of short flower spikes. Native and Asian selections are available, providing a wide range of characteristics. Foliage can be evergreen or deciduous and colors range from green, brown/rust, golden, blue to variegated. Sedges are grown in groups or masses, as a lawn substitute, in naturalized areas, perennial borders and habitat restoration. They are grown particularly in shady areas where the variegated varieties really shine. Some require damp or wet conditions, while others are relatively drought tolerant.

Perennials

Exposure: Full sun to full shade

Soil: Dry to wet

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 10



Swamp or Narrow-leaf Sunflower

Helianthus angustifolius

Narrow-leaf or Swamp sunflower is a native perennial that can grow up to 8 feet with leaves that are rough and narrow, producing showy late-season yellow flowers. They often put on a spectacular display as late as Halloween and into early November. Prune plants back in June to encourage branching. Shorter cultivars are available such as 'First Light' and 'Low Down'. Narrow-leaf sunflower prefer moist to occasionally wet acidic sandy to clay soil loams in full sun but can be grown on drier soils if adequate moisture is provided. Staking may be required to support plants in windy areas. Narrow-leaf sunflower is highly attractive to songbirds and pollinators. The plant is also a larval host for the Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*). Songbirds, quail, mourning doves and small mammals are attracted to the seeds through the winter. Narrow-leaf sunflower is a great choice for perennial borders, native plantings, butterfly or pollinator gardens, along streams or ponds and rain gardens.

Exposure: Sun

Soil: moist to occasionally wet; tolerates drier soil but needs supplemental irrigation

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

Switchgrass is native throughout North America and is a dominant species of the tallgrass prairies. It does not mind most soils and actually grows well in wet and dry locations. Full sun is the best exposure for switchgrass, but it will grow in part shade; too much shade or rich soils may result in floppy plants. Switchgrass is a warm-season perennial, growing largely as a bunchgrass 3 feet to 6 feet tall, but may spread by rhizomes or self-seeding. Switchgrass has an upright, stiff form overall. Flower panicles are open, lacy sprays, with a purplish tint that persists into the winter. Leaf color is generally medium green, turning yellow, sometimes with orange tints in fall; however, several cultivars exist – ‘Heavy Metal’ has metallic-blue foliage, ‘Northwind’ is bluish-green, ‘Shenandoah’ has foliage with dark purple tips and ‘Cheyenne Sky’ turns wine red. Winter color is tan to beige. Once established, switchgrass is very drought tolerant. It is grown as an accent, in groups or masses and can be effective as a screen. It also works well in native plant gardens, wild gardens, meadows, naturalized areas, as well as rain, water and bog gardens.

Exposure: Sun, part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Perennials

Toad Lily

Tricyrtis hirta

Toad lilies are known for their very unique flowers. Flowers are pale lilac with dark purple spots that appear on upright arching stems in late summer to early fall, when many other plants are beginning to wind down. The flowers are small, so place toad lily in a spot where they can be appreciated up close. The plant grows 2 feet to 3 feet high and about 2 feet wide with bright green leaves. They are excellent for the woodland garden where they will be protected by shade. Toad lily is easy to grow, resistant to deer, somewhat drought tolerant but grows best in moist soils, even tolerating wet conditions. Several cultivars with varying flower colors are available.

Exposure: Part to full shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 8



Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus var. *drummondii*

This native perennial grows 2 feet to 3 feet high (sometimes higher) and 3 feet to 5 feet wide. The species has bright-red, pendant, hibiscus-like flowers that never fully open with petals overlapping to form a loose tube said to resemble a Turkish turban, hence its common name, Turk's Cap. Red flowers usually are produced in showy profusion during hot weather at the end of summer and early fall. White- and pink-flowered cultivars and a variegated form are available. Turk's Cap is a good ornamental for shady sites.



Perennials

Exposure: Sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7-10



Verbena

Verbena canadensis 'Homestead Purple'

'Homestead Purple's' deep purple flowers and trailing habit make it perfect for hanging baskets, as a ground cover or as the foreground of a mixed border. This North American native will bloom from spring to frost, slowing down only slightly during the hottest months.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



American Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

American beautyberry is a native deciduous shrub that produces inconspicuous lavender flowers in mid summer. As fall approaches, the plant becomes laden with brightly colored clusters of purple fruit, producing a striking display. American beautyberry prefers light shade or protection from the afternoon sun in Oklahoma. It grows from 5 feet to 10 feet high and just as broad. Overgrown plants can be rejuvenated by cutting them to the ground in winter without sacrificing fruit since the flowers are produced on new growth. This native shrub can be massed as an informal hedge, incorporated into a mixed border or used as an understory plant in a naturalistic garden setting. White-fruited cultivars are also available.

Exposure: Part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Shrubs

Allspice or sweetshrub

Calycanthus species

Sweetshrub or allspice is a deciduous native shrub that can reach 6 to 12 feet high with equal or slightly greater spread. *Calycanthus floridus*, commonly called Carolina Allspice or Common Sweetshrub, is native to the southeast. It is found growing in shady woodland areas and along stream banks. Its common name of Sweetshrub comes from the showy fragrant spring flowers often described as having a pineapple, strawberry and banana aroma. Flowers are generally brownish to reddish-brown, but varieties come in red to yellow and white flowers. Sweetshrubs are tolerant of damage by deer and clay soils. Use it as a specimen, in a shrub border, naturalized area or in a patio planting where its sweet floral fragrance can be enjoyed. Sweetshrub can also be used in a shrub border or the smaller forms as a foundation planting. Once you see it in flower, you'll understand why it is a showstopper!

Exposure: Full sun to deep shade

Soil: Medium moisture, average garden, tolerant of clay soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Barberry, Columnar Forms

Berberis thunbergii

Barberries are, in general, pretty tough and offer a wide variety of leaf color. The newest forms are the columnar types of shrubs offering a vertical element in the landscape. These forms of barberry include the Rocket and Pillar collections. Each offers upright, narrow plants in different foliage colors of golden to red and orange, growing 3 feet to 5 feet high and not more than 2 feet wide. Barberries prefer moist, well-drained soils, but are adaptable to a wide range of soils and, once established, can be quite drought tolerant. Barberries have no serious pest problems and require very little maintenance, making them excellent for the urban landscape. Grow columnar forms of barberry as a specimen, in groupings, in shrub borders and as a foundation planting.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 8



Shrubs

Blue Muffin Viburnum

Viburnum dentatum 'Christom'

Blue Muffin viburnum is a small, compact version of the native arrowwood viburnum that grows about 5 to 7 feet high and just as wide. Blue Muffin prefers moist, well-drained soils, but is adaptable to a wide range of other soils. Established plants are somewhat drought tolerant, have no serious pest problems and require very little maintenance, making them excellent for the urban landscape. As with many viburnums, Blue Muffin offers season-long interest with white spring flowers, dark green summer foliage that turns red and orange in fall and blue fruits the birds love in late summer/fall. Prune right after flowering, but only if necessary. Grow Blue Muffin as a specimen, in groupings, in shrub borders, as a foundation planting or as a hedge.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 8



Bush Clover

Lespedeza thunbergii subsp. *thunbergii* 'Little Volcano' and 'Gibraltar'

Bush clovers are hardy, semi-woody deciduous shrubs reaching 4 feet to 6 feet high and at least as wide with arching stems. In harsh winters, it can die to the ground but quickly comes back the following spring. Late winter or early spring pruning may be necessary to rejuvenate the plant. Flowers develop on new wood and are rosy-purple in late summer to early fall, completely covering the plant. Bush clovers perform well in sandy, infertile soil and are very drought tolerant once established; ideal drainage is essential. 'Little Volcano,' a selection from Japan, is more upright with dark green foliage and red-purple flowers. Foliage turns golden after bloom in the fall. 'Gibraltar' is a spectacular selection with long, arching stems also covered in rosy-purple flowers from late summer to early fall.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerates poor, infertile soil; excellent drainage is essential

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 10



Buttonbush

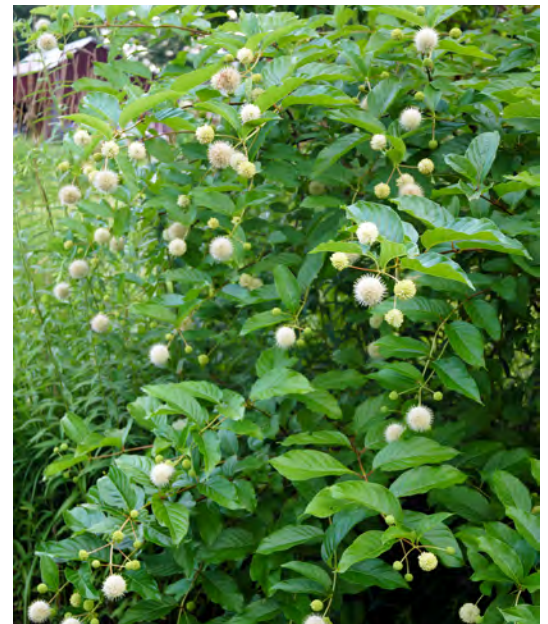
Cephalanthus occidentalis

Buttonbush is a native shrub found growing throughout most of Oklahoma bordering streams and lakes except in the panhandle. It is a medium-to-large shrub with a course, open-rounded habit from 5 feet to 12 feet tall and 4 feet to 8 feet wide. Leaves are dark, glossy green and lack significant fall color. Clusters of white, fragrant flowers bloom June to July and look like a pincushion. Flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators, and it is considered a good honey plant. Ducks and other water birds consume the seed. The round, ball-like fruit structure persists on the plant and may be reddish brown.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, wet; wide variety except dry

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Chaste Tree

Vitex species

Vitex is a multi-stemmed large shrub but can be trained into a small tree. Leaves are palmately compound and dark green. Flowers appear in early summer and continue to bloom sporadically through summer and fall. Flowers of *Vitex* can be blue, lavender, pink or white. Old strains had small spikes of flowers; improved varieties have large spikes (8 to 12 inches long) of colorful flowers that are fragrant and make excellent cut flowers. *Vitex* is not too picky of soils and is easy to grow, very heat, drought and pest tolerant and an excellent choice for a xeric garden. *Vitex* is often considered an excellent replacement for lilacs, which grow much better in colder climates, and it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Shrubs

Chokeberry

Aronia

There are two species in the genus *Aronia*, red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) and black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*). Both are excellent landscape plants. As their common names suggest, fruit color is the major difference between the two. They both produce clusters of white flowers in spring, have excellent red fall foliage, grow to about 10 feet high and thrive in almost any soil type. Black chokeberry is getting a lot of attention as a “super fruit” for its high levels of antioxidants and can be used to make juice, jelly or wine. *Aronia* works well massed in a naturalized setting or at the back of a border since the stems are usually bare near the base, leaving room for garden perennials.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Crossvine

Bignonia capreolata 'Tangerine Beauty'

A true beauty, especially in the spring when 'Tangerine Beauty' is covered in orange, trumpet-shaped flowers. This semi-evergreen vine can climb by twining its branches around a structure or can use its adhesive tendrils to cling to a wall, easily reaching heights of 30 feet or more. As temperatures cool in the fall, the leaves have a purple cast and are evergreen during a mild winter or in a protected spot. Beauty is not the only reason for using crossvine; it is also a tough plant, tolerant of heat and drought once established.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Deciduous Holly

Ilex decidua

Deciduous holly is a native plant typically grown as a multi-stemmed shrub. It tolerates heat, drought and poorly drained soils and reaches a height of 8 feet to 12 feet. Female cultivars of deciduous holly have beautiful red to yellow berries that remain on the plant through the winter. Male and female cultivars should be planted to ensure fruit production.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Poorly to well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5



Diabolo Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius 'Monlo'

Diabolo is a cultivar of ninebark prized for its deep maroon foliage, which contrasts nicely with the clusters of white flowers produced in the spring and is a great companion for gold or chartreuse-leaved plants. This deciduous shrub grows from 6 feet to 10 feet high and just as wide. It can be rejuvenated by pruning it to the ground in winter. Red fruit extends ninebark's show into the fall and exfoliating bark adds winter interest. Diabolo is a hardy and durable shrub that can be used as a screen, for massing or at the back of a border.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 2



Dwarf Palmetto

Sabal minor

Dwarf palmetto favors the wet alluvial soil in swamps and river bottoms in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and North Carolina and is the only member of the palm family native to Oklahoma. This very slow-growing, ground-hugging rugged fan palm produces pale green or bluish fan-like, evergreen leaves atop spineless stems arising from a crown of underground roots and reaches 4 feet to 6 feet high or more. Flowers are yellowish-white in late spring followed by edible black, BB-sized fruits that taste like dates. Dwarf palmetto provides interest and variety to a damp, shaded place. Although this plant grows native in areas of high to moderate moisture, once established it is fairly drought tolerant. It is the most cold-tolerant *Sabal*. In the landscape, it works well as a specimen plant, in mass plantings or in containers.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade
(best in part shade)

Soil: Organically rich, moderately
fertile, moist

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 10



Flowering Quince, Double Take Series

Chaenomeles speciosa

Flowering quince in the Double Take series are hardy, deciduous shrubs reaching 4 to 5 feet high and at least as wide. Plants in the Double Take series produce a profusion of early spring double flowers that resemble camellias. This is a dense, broad-rounded, thornless shrub. Bold double flowers (up to 2 inches diameter) bloom before the leaves fully unfold in an early spring bloom and come in colors of scarlet, orange, pink and peach. Plants do not produce fruit. Oval to oblong, glossy dark green leaves provide an attractive look through the summer. Prune lightly after blooms in spring when needed. Double Take flowering quince is very drought tolerant once established.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils, but prefers well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Shrubs

Glossy Abelia

Abelia x grandiflora

Several new, compact forms of glossy abelia are becoming very popular. 'Kaleidoscope' grows 2 feet to 3 feet high and slightly wider. In spring, leaves appear on bright red stems with lime green centers and bright yellow edges, but variegation does not scorch or burn in hot weather. In fall, color deepens to shades of orange and fiery red. Soft pink flower buds open to white in late spring. 'Little Richard' is a 3-foot by 3-foot evergreen with vivid green leaves in summer, taking on a tangerine-pink color in fall. White flowers bloom from summer to first frost. 'Rose Creek' grows 2 feet to 3 feet high and 3 feet to 4 feet wide; it is evergreen with crimson stems. New leaves have a pinkish cast, mature to lustrous dark green and turn purple in cold weather. Use abelias in containers, as formal or informal hedges, accent plants, in mass plantings or in foundation plantings under windows. Abelias also attract hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained, acidic

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 9, evergreen in 7 and warmer



Harry Lauder's Walkingstick

Corylus avellana 'Contorta'

Harry Lauder's Walkingstick or Contorted Filbert is a unique plant because of its curly, twisty stems and foliage. The contorted stems add interest to the garden, especially in winter after the leaves have fallen, when the contorted branches are best observed. Late winter flowers (female tiny, inconspicuous flower with red stigmas and yellow-gray male catkins which are somewhat showy) also add to the winter interest; fruits (nuts) are seldom produced. The unique stems are prized by florists. It is a round, multi-trunked shrub that can grow 8 foot to 10 foot tall. Plants are typically grafted onto non-contorted species and may sucker. Suckers should be removed. Occasionally the contorted form is grown on its own roots producing contorted suckers. Some cultivars have been developed including dwarf cultivars which are perfect for small spaces as well as containers; 'Red Dragon', has maroon-colored leaves and reaches about 6 foot high and wide, 'Red Majestic' also has maroon-colored leaves with a somewhat weeping habit.

Exposure: Fun sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, average garden, avoid heavy clays

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 9



Japanese Aucuba

Aucuba japonica

Japanese aucuba is a beautiful broadleaf evergreen shrub that can reach 6 to 10 feet high with equal or slightly greater spread. It is tolerant of heavy shade. In its native habitat it is found growing in forests in rich, moist soil near streams and shaded moist rocks, avoid overly wet soils. Established plants are tolerant of clay soil and dry conditions. Plants are dioecious, females can produce bright red fruits which ripen in fall and often persist on the plant until spring. Japanese aucubas are easy to grow with few pest problems. Root rot may occur in poorly drained or overly wet soil. Occasionally dieback can occur in extremely cold winters, but plants bounce right back. Plants can be grown as a hedge, screen, background, in planters and containers or indoors as houseplants. Popular forms are the variegated types. Cultivars include 'Variegata', 'Crotonifolia', 'Golden King', 'Mr. Goldstrike', 'Nana' and 'Picturata'. Many other cultivars may be found with varying amounts of yellow spotting or larger yellow sections on the leaves.

Exposure: Part to full shade

Soil: Medium to average; tolerant of clay if well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones [6] 7 to 10



Japanese Kerria

Kerria japonica

Japanese kerria produces an abundance of yellow, rose-like flowers in the early spring and sporadically through the summer. The species has single yellow flowers while 'Pleniflora' (shown here) has double flowers. In winter, Japanese kerria adds interest to the garden with its bright green stems and arching habit. Japanese kerria can be rejuvenated by cutting the shrub to the ground every few years.

Exposure: Part to full shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Shrubs

Juniper Collection

Juniperus virginiana 'Taylor', *J. chinensis* 'Saybrook Gold', *J. horizontalis* 'Monber'

This collection represents the very diverse genus *Juniperus*, which has several species and many cultivars within each species. Junipers come in upright, spreading or low groundcover forms. 'Taylor' is a narrow, upright cultivar that grows about 4 feet to 5 feet wide, reaching 15 feet to 20 feet tall and is excellent for tight spaces. 'Saybrook Gold' is the brightest gold, holding its color year round with a compact, spreading habit to about 30 inches tall and 6 feet wide. 'Monber' Icee Blue is a low, mat-forming species with beautiful silver-blue foliage. In general, junipers are adapted to a wide range of soils and withstand hot, dry conditions once established.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Koreanspice Viburnum

Viburnum carlesii

Koreanspice viburnum is a small-to-medium-sized shrub, offering year round interest. In summer, the leaves are dark green and fall color can be wine red. Flower buds are pink to red, opening to white or pink in spring and emit a wonderful fragrance. In late summer, clusters of red fruit that fade to black invite birds to the garden. Once the shrub has become established, it is quite heat and drought tolerant. Though it prefers moist, slightly acidic soils and sun to part shade, it is tolerant of high pH soils and wind-swept conditions. It grows from 4 feet to 5 feet high and just as broad. Several improved cultivars are available.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 7



Shrubs

Mexican Buckeye

Ungnadia speciosa

Mexican buckeye is a native, multi-stemmed large shrub or small tree reaching 15 feet to 30 feet high and about 20 feet wide. Its native range is west, central Texas to Mexico and New Mexico though it is hardy to zone 7. It is rapid growing, drought resistant and resistant to cotton root rot. Its fragrant, pink flowers bloom simultaneously as it leafs out with light bronze-colored leaflets, which turn pale green during the growing season. Its fall color is bright golden yellow. In its spring flowering aspect, it is thought to somewhat resemble eastern redbuds. Mexican buckeye's round black somewhat shiny seeds are contained within a coarse, dark brown three-valved capsule, which somewhat resembles buckeye (*Aesculus* spp.) seeds. However, the two species are not related. Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are attracted to the flowers. The seeds are eaten by birds and other mammals.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Neutral to alkaline and dry

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 9



Oakleaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea quercifolia

Oakleaf hydrangea produces beautiful, creamy-white, cone-shaped flowers in early summer. This native shrub grows from 6 to 8 feet high and just as broad and has year-round interest. In fall, the oak-shaped leaves can turn purple and red. In winter, the exfoliating bark is exposed as are the cinnamon-colored buds that in late spring and early summer open to form large, striking flowers. Various cultivars are available and offer different aesthetic attributes.

Exposure: Part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5



Shrubs

Pink Velour Crape Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica 'Whit III'

Pink Velour was developed in Oklahoma for its burgundy spring foliage. Summer leaves have a dark purple cast and highlight the pink flowers that are formed from early July until frost. Pink Velour forms a 10-foot high, multi-stemmed large shrub, is drought tolerant and highly resistant to powdery mildew.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Red Yucca

Hesperaloe parviflora

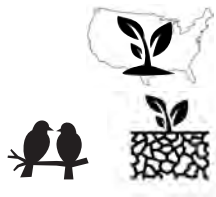
Not a yucca, this member of the Century-Plant family (Agavaceae) produces soft, yucca-like evergreen leaves, 2 feet to 3 feet in length, crowded on the perennial's short, woody base. The flower stalk rises 5 feet and bears showy, coral-colored, tubular flowers on arching, wand-like, pink stems. Leaves are plum-colored in winter; blue-green other times. Red Yucca is drought-resistant and adaptable to a variety of soils. Deer may browse the foliage, while the flowers attract hummingbirds. *Hesperaloe parviflora* 'Perpa,' Brakelights Red Yucca has vibrant, red blooms, which are a great color improvement to this species! Yellow flowering forms also are available. Use in mass plantings for a dramatic effect in xeriscape and waterwise gardens. Good container specimen.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Dry, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 10



Shrubs

Seven-son-flower

Heptacodium miconioides

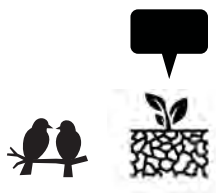
Seven-son-flower is an upright, irregular, loose and open shrub growing 15 feet to 20 feet high. Leaves appear in early spring and are soft green and mature to dark green. It is very attractive and pest free. Flower buds form in early summer but do not open until late summer or early fall. Individual flowers are tiny but fragrant and attract butterflies to the garden. Sepals persist and change from green to rose purple and are as attractive as the flowers. Bark is exfoliating, whitish, to rich brown and green. Seven-son-flower grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soil but seems adaptable.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8



Southern Waxmyrtle

Myrica cerifera

Southern waxmyrtle is a broad-leaved evergreen native to the south-east corner of Oklahoma and along much of the eastern coastal plain. It has been described as the southern cousin of bayberry and has a similar scent when new leaves emerge in spring. It produces small but showy blue fruit. Southern waxmyrtle can be grown as a large shrub, making an excellent naturalistic screen or can be pruned to tree form, exposing its light-gray bark. It fixes atmospheric nitrogen, making it suitable on poor soils; it withstands bog-like conditions. Narrow leaf, compact and dwarf cultivars are available, extending the possible uses for this native shrub.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 7



Shrubs

Specialty Fruit for Small Spaces

Miniature peaches, columnar apples, dwarf pomegranate and dwarf patio-type blueberries

Many of the fruits we enjoy so much do not fit well in today's urban landscapes, especially the standard variety fruit trees. However, today's breeding and production techniques bring us dwarf and miniature versions that fit in just about any space. Columnar apples, patio peaches, dwarf pomegranates and compact blueberries now make easy-to-enjoy fresh fruit right out our back door; and they are ornamental too!

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained; blueberries require acidic soil (pH 5)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 11 (varies by species)



Spirea

Spiraea japonica 'Magic Carpet'

'Magic Carpet' spirea is a compact cultivar from England with dark pink flowers and reddish shoots bearing gold-tinged young foliage in spring. This shrub will remain compact, making it perfect for mixed borders, rock gardens or small-scale landscapes.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Shrubs

Sumac

Rhus typhina

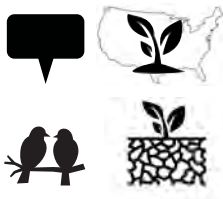
Many sumacs are native to Oklahoma, and these selections have unique characteristics. Tiger Eyes is bright lime green to yellow all summer, turning brilliant bronzy red in fall. Tiger Eyes can grow 6 feet to 7 feet high. 'Laciniata' or laceleaf sumac has deeply divided leaflets that create a fine-textured, lacey appearance and turn shades of red, orange and yellow in fall. This cultivar can grow 10 feet to 15 feet tall. As with any other sumac, they spread by suckers forming thickets. Fruit form in pyramidal clusters and are hairy, red, berry-like drupes that persist into winter, providing interest and food for wildlife. Flowers that bloom in spring attract bees and butterflies. These selections of sumac are all great for naturalized areas and erosion control.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained; tolerant of high pH soils and pollution

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 7



Variegated Yucca

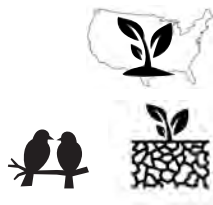
Yucca filamentosa 'Color Guard'

Yucca is virtually a stemless evergreen shrub native to the southeast. 'Color Guard' is a gold-centered, variegated form with upright sword-shaped leaves that provide striking architectural features to the garden. Flowering stalks arise in late spring from the center of the plant bearing long, terminal panicles of bell-shaped, nodding, fragrant, creamy white flowers. 'Color Guard' yucca is free of pests and is tolerant of dry areas. It is excellent in borders, xeriscape plantings, containers and as an accent plant.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Dry to moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 8



Shrubs

Virginia Sweetspire

Itea virginica

Virginia sweetspire is a native shrub to eastern Oklahoma but does well throughout the state. It is a mound-shaped, slender-branched, deciduous shrub generally 3 feet to 6 feet tall and wide. Small, white, fragrant flowers bloom in spring to early summer in 4-inch spires that droop with the arching branches. Flowers open from base to tip so that the plant appears to bloom for a long time. Leaves turn red to purple in fall and persist well into the winter. Plants are found growing in the wild in moist, even wet to swampy areas and along stream banks in acid soils, but they are not too picky of the soil type. Plants should be watered during droughts. Virginia sweetspire grows in shady areas as an understory plant, but it grows best and has better blooms and fall color if it receives full sun for at least part of the day.

Exposure: Part shade to full sun

Soil: Moist, acidic; tolerates poor drainage

Hardiness: USDA Zone 5 to 9



Winterberry Holly (Dwarf Cultivars)

Ilex verticillata

Common winterberry is a deciduous holly native of Eastern North America. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by dense clusters of bright red berries that persist on branches throughout winter, providing a spectacular winter display. The species is a globular, upright, medium-sized shrub, typically 6 feet to 10 feet tall, but dwarf cultivars have been developed, which are perfect for small spaces and containers. Birds are readily attracted to the fruit. This shrub grows in both wet and dry sites for naturalized areas. Dwarf cultivars are great for small hedges, a cutting garden, mass plantings and containers.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained, acidic

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 9



Winter Jasmine

Jasminum nudiflorum

Winter jasmine is often mistaken for Forsythia, but it flowers earlier and has a long-lasting floral display. It flowers as early as December before its glossy green leaves are formed. Winter jasmine is routinely semi-evergreen in Oklahoma. It can be pruned and used as a hedge, but left untrimmed, will arch gracefully forming a 4-foot-high mound spreading to 7 feet. Winter jasmine requires very little care and is easily rejuvenated by cutting it to the ground every three to five years.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



American Elm

Ulmus americana

With the release of improved, disease-resistant cultivars and hybrids, American elms are once again in demand. 'Valley Forge,' 'New Harmony' and 'Princeton' are a few of the cultivars available today. 'Valley Forge' is upright, arching, broadly vase-shaped with a full, dense canopy. 'New Harmony' develops into a broad vase-shaped crown with arching branches terminating in numerous slender, often drooping branchlets. 'Princeton' is also vase-shaped. American elms are adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions, tolerate de-icing salts, air pollution, drought and a range of soil pH. They have yellow or red fall color.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Arizona Cypress

Cupressus arizonica

Arizona cypress is a drought tolerant, evergreen tree native to the southwestern U.S. In the landscape, it usually reaches a height of only 20 feet to 25 feet and 15 feet wide. The foliage can be a gray-green, but usually blueish. Recently, yellow-foliage forms are available. 'Blue Ice' and 'Carolina Sapphire' are common cultivars and 'Cooke's Peak' is a selection from Cooke's Peak, New Mexico, with silvery-blue foliage and pyramidal form. Arizona cypress require well-drained soil and thrive in hot, dry environments. As the tree ages, the bark exfoliates beautifully, becoming mottled with patches of burnt orange and green.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 7



Bald Cypress

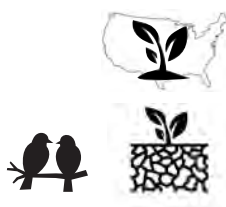
Taxodium distichum

This large Oklahoma native will lose its leaves in the fall after turning a russet or coppery-bronze and can easily grow to 70 feet high with a 30-foot spread; however, narrow growth habit and dwarf selections also are available. Tolerant of both wet and dry soils, bald cypress makes an outstanding specimen, street tree or pond-side grove.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained to flood tolerant

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Black Gum

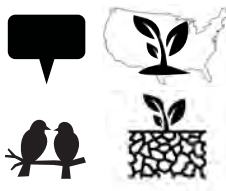
Nyssa sylvatica

Black gum is an eastern native, growing slowly to 50 feet to 60 feet high or more. They are picturesque shade trees with beautiful summer foliage and gorgeous fall color. New selections have excellent form and are more resistant to leaf spot, which can occasionally be a problem. 'Wildfire' (*N. sylvatica*) grows slowly to 60 feet high by 25 feet wide. New growth emerges red; leaves mature to a shiny dark green; and fall color is bright red. Fire Master (*N. sylvatica* 'PRP1') grows about 50 feet to 60 feet tall and 25 feet wide with a strong central leader; leaves turn crimson red in the fall. Red Rage (*N. sylvatica* 'Hayman Red') exhibits more leaf spot resistance than other cultivars and is slightly smaller, growing 30 feet to 50 feet tall. Flowers of black gum are insignificant but an important nectar source for bees and pollinators. The small, black fruits that follow are loved by birds. Black gums are an excellent tree for urban and street plantings and their neat habit requires little to no pruning to maintain their excellent shape.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Average to wet

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Bosnian Pine

Pinus heldreichii

Bosnian pine is a slow-growing evergreen with a dense pyramidal form when young. It has the potential to grow to 70 feet tall in its native environment, but is more likely to reach only 25 feet to 30 feet in the landscape. In the Pirin Mountains of Bulgaria, there is a 70-foot tall Bosnian pine estimated to be over 1,300 years old! Young cones are purple and turn brown as they mature. The seeds they produce are edible. Bosnian pine prefers full sun and, once established, is quite tolerant of high pH soils and drought. It is also disease resistant and can be used in the landscape where an evergreen or pine is desired and space is limited.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Tolerates dry and high pH soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Bur Oak

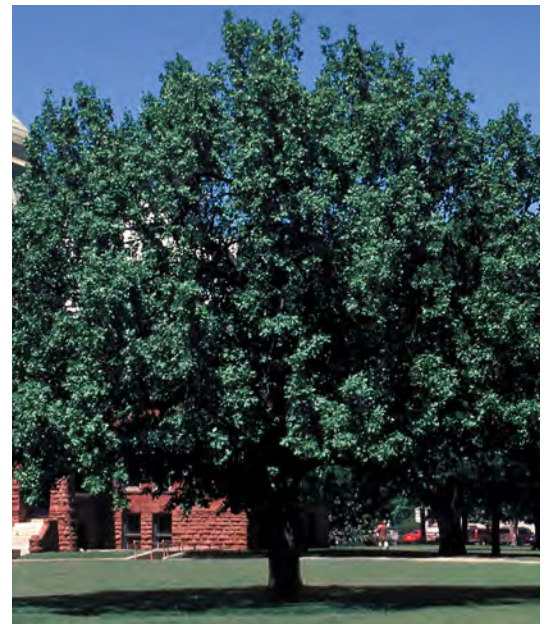
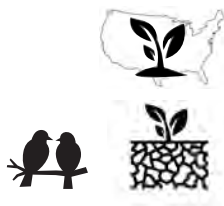
Quercus macrocarpa

Bur oak is an Oklahoma native that can grow to 60 feet tall with an even larger spread and can tolerate drought, heavy soils and high pH soils. Bur oak can grow to be a long-lived, majestic specimen and is an important wildlife species since many animals feed on its large acorns.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 3



Caddo Sugar Maple

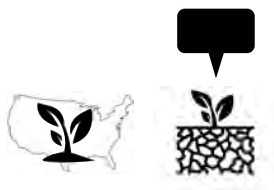
Acer saccharum 'Caddo'

Caddo sugar maple is a native population of sugar maple found growing in Caddo County in southwestern Oklahoma. The leaves are dark green, deeply lobed and leathery, making it more resistant to leaf tatter and scorch. Caddo sugar maple is also quite tolerant of high pH soils, extreme heat and drought conditions commonly found in western Oklahoma. It can reach 30 feet to 50 feet tall and is a beautiful medium-to-large shade tree. Fall color is variable but can range from yellow to golden yellow to orange and sometimes red; cultivars selected for brilliant fall colors as well as outstanding performance are available.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Cedar Elm

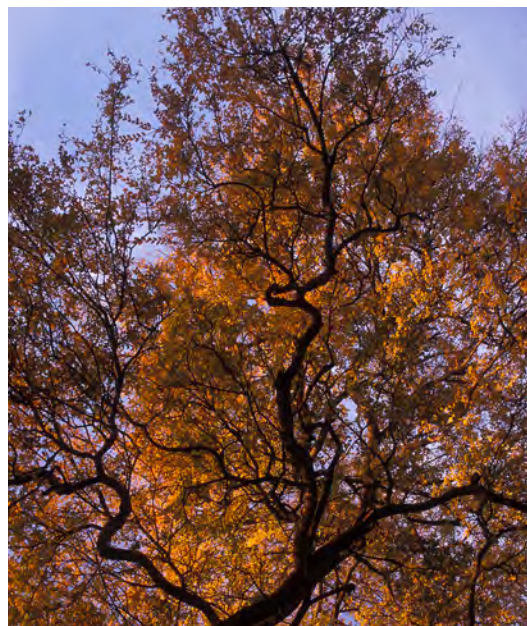
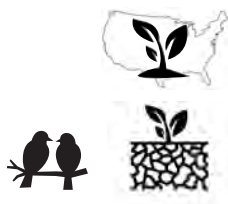
Ulmus crassifolia

Cedar elm can thrive in almost any soil type, including the alkaline and heavy soils common in Oklahoma. It is one of the more disease-resistant native elms, producing glossy green leaves in early spring that turn a muted yellow in the fall. Its form can vary from upright-oval to broadly-horizontal, and it generally matures around 60 feet tall. It can be distinguished from other elms by its rough-textured leaves, corky projections on young stems and flowers and fruit produced in the fall.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Chinese Pistache

Pistacia chinensis

Chinese pistache reaches a height of 30 feet to 45 feet with only a slightly smaller spread. Brilliant yellow, orange or red leaves reliably grace the tree in autumn. Chinese pistache is a tough tree, tolerant of drought, heat and heavy soils.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

A native oak growing throughout most of Oklahoma and eastward, chinkapin oak is a rather attractive shade tree that grows 40 feet to 50 feet high and wide in the landscape. The tree has a nice medium texture in summer and a medium-to-coarse texture in winter. Bark on the stems and trunk develop into irregular blocky scales with age and is quite attractive. Leaves are a glossy, dark yellow-green in summer with varying fall color of yellow to orange-brown to brown. Chinkapin oak is adapted to various soils, even alkaline soils and is quite drought resistant and tolerant of windswept sites.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Crabapple

Malus 'Prairifire'

Few trees have as much year-round interest as the crabapple, and few crabapples are as beautiful and disease resistant as 'Prairifire.' 'Prairifire' starts the spring with a profusion of rose-pink flowers just as the leaves emerge. As summer progresses, the leaves turn from purple red to dark green, and red fruit forms that persists well into the winter. It is resistant to diseases that affect many crabapples. It has a rounded crown and will not exceed 20 feet tall, which makes it a perfect choice for planting under utility lines or in masses.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Deciduous Magnolia Cultivars

Magnolia

Deciduous forms of magnolia are spectacular additions to any spring landscape. Among the most popular of deciduous forms are star magnolia (*M. stellata*) and saucer magnolia (*M. x soulangiana*), but several others are available along with their many hybrids, which provide a wide variety of flower colors from red to white, yellow, pink or purple. The most common color available is pink, but there are others such as 'Elizabeth,' an older selection with creamy yellow flowers, or 'Butterflies,' a newer selection with deep yellow flowers. Flowers of deciduous magnolias appear just before or while the leaves are emerging in spring. Early flowering varieties can be damaged by late frosts; avoid placing plants in a southern exposure where flowers will open early. Deciduous magnolias can range in size from small-to-medium shrubs to large trees.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic, but is adaptable

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Desert-Willow

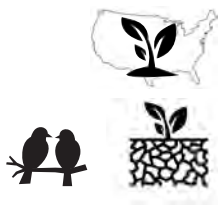
Chilopsis linearis

Desert-willow is not a willow at all. It prefers dry, well-drained soils, compared to true willows, which grow along streams and ponds; in fact, it will not tolerate heavy, wet soils. Because it likes the hotter, drier climates, it is an excellent choice for western Oklahoma. Desert-willow grows as a small tree 15 feet to 30 feet high and 10 feet to 25 feet wide. It is a loose, gangly tree favored for its colorful, funnel-shaped flowers that put on their biggest show in early summer, then bloom sporadically throughout the rest of summer. Flowers can be white, pink, rose or lavender with purple markings inside and are sweetly fragrant. Foliage is a rich green in summer with no fall color, falling early to reveal the interesting branching structure. Several cultivars exist. Desert-willow makes a great patio or small specimen tree and attracts hummingbirds and other birds.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Dry, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 9



Escarpment Live Oak

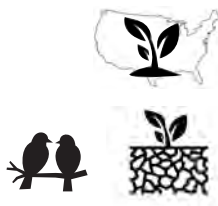
Quercus fusiformis

Escarpment live oak is a smaller version of the coastal live oak (*Q. virginiana*). It grows slowly to 20 feet to 40 feet high and about as wide with picturesquely gnarled branches and evergreen leaves. Escarpment live oak is native to southern Oklahoma through central and western Texas to northern Mexico, which means it is also more drought and cold tolerant than coastal live oak. Because of its slower growth, it is a perfect long-lived shade tree for smaller, urban landscapes. Branches provide excellent nesting sites for birds and small mammals. Acorns are elongated and eaten by wildlife. It is also the larval host of the hairstreak and Horace's duskywing butterflies.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Alkaline to slightly acidic, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 10



Fringetree

Chionanthus cultivars

Chionanthus virginicus is a deciduous, native shrub or small tree with a spreading, rounded habit that typically grows 12 feet to 20 feet tall. It occurs most often in rich, moist woods and hillsides and moist stream banks. The common name fringetree refers to the slightly fragrant, spring flowers, which feature airy, terminal, drooping clusters of fringe-like, creamy white petals. Fringetrees are dioecious (separate male and female plants) but also may have perfect flowers on each plant. Male flowers are showier than female flowers. Plants with perfect or female flowers may give way to clusters of olive-like fruits, which ripen to a dark, bluish black in late summer and are a food source for birds and wildlife. Cultivars from the Chinese cousin, *C. retusus* (shown here), also are available.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8



Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree

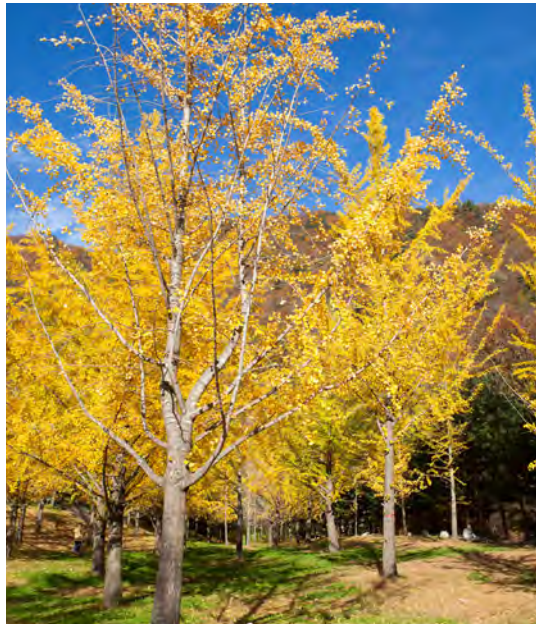
Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgo or Maidenhair tree is a unique tree in that its leaves are somewhat leathery and fan-shaped with two distinctive lobes and have almost parallel veins. The species can reach 50 feet to 80 feet high and 30 feet to 40 feet wide in ideal conditions, but they are very slow growers, requiring decades to reach mature height. Ginkgo is not very picky of its growing conditions and is quite tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions and is even a great choice for the urban environment due to its tolerance to compacted soils, heat and air pollution. Leaves of ginkgo are bright green in summer and turn a beautiful bright yellow in fall. Ginkgo is dioecious (separate male and female trees). It is best to select males to avoid the fleshy covered seed of the female, which is a large, fruit-like cone that can be messy and emit a noxious, foul odor after falling to the ground and splitting open. No serious insect or disease problems.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, sandy, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 9



Hedge Maple

Acer campestre

Hedge maple is a small-to-medium sized tree, slowly growing to 25 feet to 35 feet high and wide. Because of its small size, it is perfect for smaller urban landscapes and even under utility lines. Hedge maple has beautiful green summer foliage that is free of ailments. Fall color is yellow to yellow green in color. Branches often develop very low to the ground, providing excellent cover for wildlife, though it can easily be trimmed up if desired. Hedge maple is really not too picky of soils; though it prefers rich, well-drained soil, it grows well in compacted and alkaline soils. It also tolerates severe pruning and has often been used as a hedge and even walls, especially in Europe. Hedge maple is one of the tougher maples, which is underutilized in the U.S. It has few problems and is very urban tolerant. Golden leaf and variegated leaf forms are available.

Exposure: Full sun or light shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8



Hornbeam

Carpinus species

The genus *Carpinus* includes the native *C. caroliniana* (American hornbeam) and *C. betulus* (common or European hornbeam), both common in the trade. American hornbeam is a slow-growing, understory tree with an attractive globular form. It typically grows 20 feet to 35 feet tall. The European hornbeam grows in full sun to part shade and needs little pruning when grown as a tree but responds well to hard pruning if grown as a hedge; it can grow to 40 feet to 60 feet tall with a pyramidal to oval-rounded crown, but is usually smaller when grown in Oklahoma. Both trees produce flowers as separate male and female catkins with the female catkins giving way to distinctive clusters of winged nutlets. Leaves are dark green and can produce respectable shades of yellow, orange and red in fall. Trunks have smooth gray bark and distinctive muscle-like fluting. Upright, columnar forms are available.

Exposure: Full sun to light shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 to 9



Horstmann Blue Atlas Cedar

Cedrus atlantica 'Horstmann'

Horstmann Blue Atlas Cedar is a smaller, more compact version of the species which offers striking powder-blue foliage. Horstmann is a graceful evergreen tree reaching up to 12 feet high and 8 feet wide. Because of its small stature compared to the species, it makes a perfect candidate for the smaller, urban landscape. Water deeply and regularly during the first few growing seasons to establish an extensive root system; reduce frequency once established. Atlas Cedar is quite drought tolerant once established. It is best located in an area sheltered from high winds. No serious insect or disease problems.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained, avoid overly wet sites

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6 to 9



Indian Cherry

Frangula caroliniana

Indian cherry is a small tree (or large, multi-stemmed shrub) that grows to 20 feet tall with a rounded to spreading canopy. It is native to the eastern and southeastern U.S., making it more desirable over its European cousins. The foliage is dark, lustrous green all summer and turns yellow to orange yellow in the fall. Probably its greatest asset is the colorful fruits that develop late summer/fall that turn red, then black as they mature. These beautiful, sweet fruit also attract several species of birds and can be used to make jams and jellies.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Japanese Zelkova

Zelkova serrata

Zelkova serrata is a deciduous tree with a vase-shaped habit that typically grows 50 feet to 80 feet tall and most often occurs in rich, moist woods and hillsides and moist stream banks. It is noted for its graceful shape, clean foliage, attractive bark and resistance to Dutch elm disease. Zelkova is often substituted for American elm (*Ulmus americana*) because of its resistance to Dutch elm disease. Cultivars from the Chinese cousin are also available. Some notable cultivars: 'Schmidtlow' Wireless (25 feet high and 35 feet wide); 'Ogon' ('Bright Park') (golden yellow leaves, coral stems); 'Musashino' (narrow upright 45 feet high, but only 20 feet wide); and 'JFS-KW1' City Sprite (compact, dense, semi-dwarf 25 feet high and 20 feet wide).

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 8



Jujube or Chinese Date

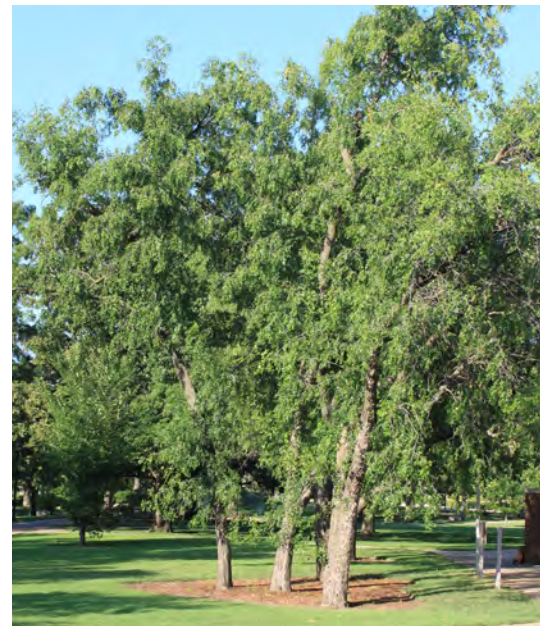
Ziziphus jujuba

Jujube, also known as Chinese date, is an excellent small-to-medium-sized tree with shiny green foliage in summer and yellow leaves in fall. The naturally drooping tree is graceful, ornamental and often thorny with branches growing in a zig-zag pattern. Jujube can grow to about 15 feet to 30 feet high. It makes a great landscape tree with the added benefit of edible fruits. Commonly grown cultivars include 'Li' and 'Lang.' Fruit are round to elongate and mature from green to red, when they have a sweet, crisp flesh somewhat similar to an apple. After maturing to red or reddish brown, the fruits wrinkle and take on the appearance of a date.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic, but is adaptable

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Kentucky Coffee Tree

Gymnocladus dioica

Kentucky coffee tree is an Oklahoma native, growing to 60 feet tall. It is very heat and drought tolerant and does well on high pH soils. Although it has few branches when young, it matures to a majestic and beautiful tree with large seed pods, which add winter interest. Espresso, a male selection, also is available.



Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Limber Pine

Pinus flexilis 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'

'Vanderwolf's Pyramid' limber pine is an evergreen tree with a pyramidal habit that typically grows 20 feet to 30 feet tall and about 10 feet to 15 feet wide. The specific epithet and common name is in reference to the flexible (limber) branchlets/twigs. 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid' is noted for its closely spaced, twisted, silvery blue green needles. Limber pine is generally considered to be an adaptable, low-maintenance tree with few problems. Limber pine is native to North America and is considered resistant to pine wilt disease.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 7



Oklahoma Redbud

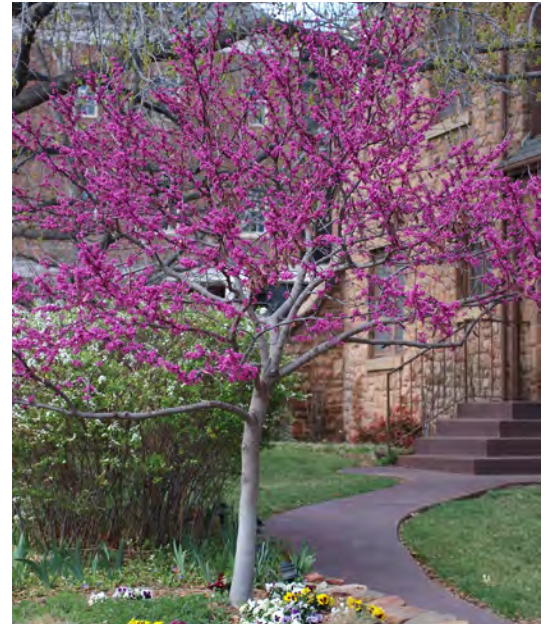
Cercis canadensis var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma'

A cultivar of Oklahoma's state tree, 'Oklahoma' was discovered in the Arbuckle Mountains and was selected for the incredible magenta flowers that cover the tree in early spring. When the flowers fade, heart-shaped leaves emerge with a beautiful glossy sheen. 'Oklahoma' redbud can withstand full sun, and their small size (15 feet to 25 feet high) makes them perfect for use under utility lines. They tolerate a wide range of conditions but do best in well-drained soils. 'Oklahoma' is one of the most beautiful native trees and is perfect for small yards needing a splash of color or grouped together where space allows.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6



Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Pawpaw is a native, understory tree. It is native to Canada and the eastern U.S. where it grows in deep shade to full sunlight in moist, nutrient-rich forests. It will tolerate occasional wet or moist conditions but prefers good drainage and acidic soil. Flowers are purplish-brown, have both male and female parts, but are self-incompatible. Trees require cross pollination so at least 2 and preferably 3 different varieties should be grown. Trees are pollinated by insects other than bees and must be planted close together. In late summer to early fall, edible, sweet-tasting and custard-like fruit develop. Harvesting can be difficult with competition from ambitious wildlife. The leaves turn a yellow color in the fall and provide interest. Pawpaw attracts butterflies, pollinators, small mammals and songbirds, making it a good addition to a butterfly, pollinator or rain garden. It is an easy-to-grow fruit tree for children's gardens.

Exposure: Full sun to shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained, occasionally wet

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9

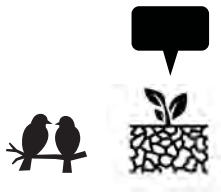


Persian Parrotia

Parrotia persica

Persian parrotia is a small tree reaching only 20 feet to 30 feet tall and can spread almost as wide. Interesting deep maroon flowers appear in late winter. Leaves have a reddish color when appearing in spring and change to a lustrous green in summer and can be a brilliant yellow or orange in fall. The bark exfoliates into patches of green, cream and gray, adding to the year-round interest of this tree. It is very heat and drought tolerant once established but appreciates some protection from the afternoon sun.

Exposure: Part shade
Soil: Moist, well-drained
Hardiness: USDA Zone 5



Redbud

Cercis

Cercis species, commonly called redbud, are found growing throughout North America, regions of Europe and Asia. It is an attractive, small to medium, tree growing up to 20 feet to 30 feet, but it can sometimes grow as a multi-stemmed large shrub. Leaves are heart-shaped, young bark is gray which contrasts nicely with the bright magenta flowers that appear before the leaves in spring. Redbuds are often understory trees in wooded areas. It grows in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade, but it does best in part shade areas in our hot summers. The eastern redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, is the Oklahoma state tree. There are many cultivars to choose from, but Mexican redbud and the Chinese redbuds are also worthy small trees.

Exposure: Part shade is best, but tolerates full sun
Soil: Prefers moist, well-drained
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



River Birch

Betula nigra

River birch is native to the eastern United States and is a fast-growing tree reaching up to 40 to 70 feet high. Trees are usually grown as multi-trunk trees, but they can be trained as single trunk trees. The highlight of this species is its interesting and attractive papery, exfoliating bark revealing colors of salmon-pink to reddish brown and white. The interesting bark adds winter interest to the landscape. Foliage is bright green in summer and a bright yellow in fall. River birch is the most adaptive and heat tolerant of the birches. It prefers moist, acidic soil but tolerates clay and short-term drought. Iron chlorosis can be a problem in high pH soils. Some leaves may turn yellow and drop during the heat of the summer. Cultivars: Dura Heat 'BNMTF', Fox Valley 'Little King' (dwarf cultivar), Heritage 'Cully', 'Shiloh Splash' (variegated foliage), 'Summer Cascade' (weeping), City Slicker 'WhitXXV' (tolerant of alkaline soil) and Orange Bark Special 'Whit XXVI' (distinct orange bark, smaller leaves, greater drought tolerance). No serious insect or disease problems. Attracts game birds, insect pollinators, small mammals, songbirds.

Exposure: Full sun part shade

Soil: Moist to wet soils; short-term drought

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 9



Shantung Maple

Acer truncatum

Shantung maple is a drought-tolerant, small-to-medium-sized tree great for under power lines or in residential landscapes where there is not room for a large tree. It grows quickly but typically only to 30 feet high. The leaves are star-shaped and typically emerge with an attractive purple tinge. This Asian native can have excellent fall color ranging from yellow to orange or red.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Shumard Oak

Quercus shumardii

Shumard oak is an Oklahoma native plant that can grow to be over 100 feet tall in the wild but typically reaches 40 feet to 60 feet in the landscape. Shumard oak produces healthy green foliage even on alkaline soils, tolerates summer heat and drought, and transplants easily.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Silver Linden

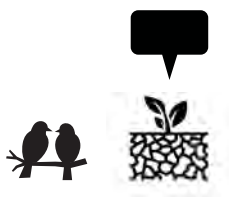
Tilia tomentosa

Silver linden is a beautiful large shade tree that can grow 50 feet to 70 feet tall. It is quite tolerant of high pH soils and urban conditions and is more heat tolerant than other lindens, making it a great street or shade tree for large yards in Oklahoma. Leaves of silver linden are dark green on the upper surface and silvery beneath, providing an interesting effect when the wind blows; leaves can have a nice yellow fall color. Tiny, fragrant white flowers attract bees in late June to July. Cultivars selected for brilliant fall color as well as outstanding performance are available.

Exposure: Full sun

Soil: Moist, well-drained; tolerant of high pH soils and pollution

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 7



Teddybear Southern Magnolia

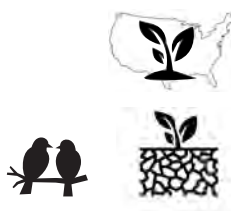
Magnolia grandiflora 'Southern Charm'

Southern magnolias are the southern belles of the evergreen plant world. The species can reach 80 feet high and 50 feet wide and traditionally have been found on large estates and plantations of the south; however, these are too big for many urban landscapes. We have a solution for that though, enter 'Southern Charm' also known as Teddybear. Teddybear is a dwarf, compact version of the species. It grows about 16 feet to 20 feet high and 10 feet to 12 feet wide in an upright pyramidal form, which makes it suitable for smaller gardens, screens, avenues and specimens, as well as growing in large planters and containers. Leaves are deep green and glossy above with a dense reddish-brown fur on the underside, thus the Teddybear name. Flowers are large, up to 8 inches across, saucer-shaped, white and fragrant appearing in early summer until early fall.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7 to 9



Trident Maple

Acer buergerianum

Trident maple or three-toothed maple is native to China, Korea and Japan. It is an attractive, small, rounded, deciduous tree that typically grows rather slowly to 20 feet to 25 feet high. This tree tends to grow as a multi-stemmed, low-branching specimen, but it can be pruned to a single stem. Triangular, three-lobed leaves are glossy green above and pale green beneath. It has interesting flaky bark revealing an orange brown inner bark on mature trunks. Variable but usually attractive fall color features shades of dark red and orange. Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun. Tolerates some drought, soil compaction and air pollution, making it a possible specimen for street plantings in urban areas. No serious insect or disease problems.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9



Winterberry Euonymus

Euonymus bungeanus

Winterberry euonymus is a large shrub to small tree with pendulous branches and light green foliage. Flowers are yellowish-green but not showy. Fruits are pinkish capsules, which split open at maturity revealing an orange aril (fleshy seed covering). Fall color can be yellow to orange and red. Bark is green with a rough texture and also is quite attractive. Winterberry grows 15 feet to 24 feet high and just about as wide. It is very adaptable and quite drought tolerant. It is mostly resistant to scale insects that are common on other euonymus species. Winterberry makes a great patio or specimen tree.



Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Tolerant of most soils

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4 to 7



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The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



EXTENSION
