



15 Most Drought Tolerant Trees For the San Antonio Area

Mesquite (*prosopis glandulosa*)

Deciduous. 30 feet maximum height. No watering. Full sun. Slow growth rate.
Excellent shade for lawns; impossible to transplant.

Live Oak (*quercus virginiana*)

Evergreen. 40-80 feet maximum height. Regular to moderate watering. Full sun. Moderate growth rate.
Needs room. Avoid oak wilt by not pruning in spring.

Lacey's Oak (*quercus glaucooides*)

Deciduous. 20-30 feet maximum height. Regular to moderate watering. Full sun. Moderate growth rate.
Bluish-green foliage. Ideal for small urban yards. Fall color.

Bur Oak (*quercus macrocarpa*)

Deciduous. 60-80 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full sun. Fast growth rate.
Majestic, needs lots of space. Very adaptable—grows in either acid or alkaline soils.

Cedar Elm (*ulmus crassifolia*)

Deciduous. 50-70 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full sun. Slow growth rate.
Texas native. Upright form, yellow/gold fall color. Adapted to rocky soils.

Crape Myrtle (*lagerstroemia indica*)

Deciduous. 20 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full sun. Moderate growth rate.
Showy blooms for 90-100 days. Choose mildew-resistant varieties.

Texas Mountain Laurel (*sophora secundiflora*)

Evergreen. 25 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full or partial sun. Moderate growth rate.
Thrives in heat and alkaline soil. Violet flowers in midwinter. Seeds are toxic.

Anacacho Orchid Tree (*bauhinia congesta*)

Deciduous. 10-15 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full or partial sun. Moderate growth rate.
Elegant form. Fragrant white blooms in spring.

Mexican Plum (*prunus mexicana*)

Deciduous. 15-25 feet maximum height. Regular to moderate watering. Full sun. Moderate to fast growth rate.
Likes limestone soil.

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Desert Willow (*chilopsis linearis*)

Deciduous. 25 feet maximum height. Moderate to little watering. Full sun. Fast, then slow growth rate. Flowers attract birds. Prefers dry, limy soil. Can be messy unless pruned.

Chinese Pistache (*pistacia chinensis*)

Deciduous. 30-60 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full sun. Slow to moderate growth rate. Tolerant of both drought and alkaline soils.

Pecan (*carya illinoensis*)

Deciduous. 70 feet maximum height. Regular to moderate watering. Full sun. Fast growth rate. Tall and impressive. Needs room. Nut producing. Needs deep soil. Difficult to transplant.

Afghan Pine (*pinus eldarica*)

Evergreen. 30-80 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full sun. Fast growth rate. Tolerates drought and alkaline soil.

Arizona Cypress (*cupressus arizonica*)

Evergreen. 30-80 feet maximum height. Moderate watering. Full sun. Moderate growth rate. Likes dry, rocky, alkaline soil.

Texas Persimmon (*diospyros texana*)

Deciduous. 30 feet maximum height. Little watering. Full or partial sun. Slow growth rate. Smooth gray bark. Suited to dry, rocky alkaline soil. Female tree has messy fruit. Provides food for wildlife.

Sources for this **GVST Gardening Guide** include San Antonio Forest, San Antonio Trees Guide and Texas A&M University. Visit the San Antonio Forest website at www.saforest.org. Find photos of these trees at www.plantanswers.com. Additional information on selecting, planting and caring for trees can be obtained through the Texas Forest Service. All of the GVST Gardening Guides can be found on our website at www.gardeningvolunteers.org.