TREE WORKSHOP

*Recommended Tree species for Aransas County
*Proper Planting and Care for Trees

A Texas A&M Forest Service Managed Fund to provide Free Trees and Technical Support to Texas Communities affected by Natural disasters.

treecover.tamu.edu  tfswb.tamu.edu
Custom Tree Selector

I will plant my tree in this county: Aransas

Option 1: The space available for my tree is...
- A small area, less than 120 sq. ft. or with growing space restrictions (overgrown trees, on the edge of a building, etc.)
- Somewhat restricted, less than 180 sq. ft.
- A large space, more than 160 sq. ft.
- Not sure

Option 2: I want a tree that is...
- Small, 20 ft. tall or less at maturity
- Medium, 20-40 ft. tall at maturity
- Large, more than 40 ft. tall at maturity
- No preference

Option 3: I want a tree with leaves that are...
- Deciduous, leaves drop in fall
- Evergreen, leaves stay green all year
- No preference

Option 4: I want a tree that... (check all that apply)
- Is a Texas native
- Has attractive fruits or seeds
- Has reliable fall color
- Has fragrant or scented flowers
- Is Firewise

Option 5: The place I will plant my tree... (check all that apply)
- Has salty soil or salt spray
- Has highly alkaline soil (> 7.5 pH)
- Is extremely dry or droughty
- Is poorly drained or swamps
- Is shady all or most of the day

Read more about soil conditions

Site Conditions
Like Goldilocks in the familiar tale, all trees would prefer growing in a place that’s "just right." For trees that means the right soil texture (the mixture of sand, silt, and clay particles), moderate drainage, sufficient water, good soil chemistry (pH and nutrients), and just the right amount of sunlight. But the place you want to plant a tree may not be perfect, so choose a species that is adapted to the conditions it will be growing in for the rest of its life.

Soil Drainage Test
Soil drainage describes how quickly water moves through the soil and away from tree roots. Drainage that is too rapid or too slow can be bad for many species. Sites with poor drainage can suffocate many tree species by cutting off oxygen to the roots. Sandy soil is often associated with good drainage (sometimes even excessive or droughty soils) and heavy clay soils with poorly drained sites. Determine your planting site's drainage by digging a 16-inch deep and filling it with water. If the hole drains within an hour, drainage is "rapid". If the hole drains in a few hours, the drainage is "good". If water stands for a day or more, drainage is "slow".

Extremely Dry or Droughty Sites
Check this box if your site has rapid drainage (conduct drainage test above) and any of the following conditions:
- No regular watering capability
- Restricted rooting space or is an elevated planting bed
- A very sunny spot or at the top of a hill or slope
- In an area of the state with regular dry spells longer than 60 days

Poorly Drained or Wet Sites
Check this box if your planting site has slow drainage (conduct drainage test above) or any of the following conditions:
- A low area that holds water after a rain
- Soil is very hard to dig (compacted) or is mostly heavy clay
- An area that is over watered by an irrigation system

Shady All or Most of the Day
Green leaves need adequate sunlight to manufacture food to keep the tree alive and growing. Check this box if your planting site:
- Receives three hours or less of direct sunlight during the summer months—including shade from nearby buildings

Salty Soil or Wind-Blown Salt Water
Check this box if your site is:
- Within one-eighth of a mile of the coast
- In an area of the state receiving 30 inches of rain or less each year
- In an area with irrigation or well water that is high in sodium

Highly Alkaline Soils
Soil pH governs the availability of nutrients and minerals to root systems. Values above 7.0 are considered "alkaline" and most trees prefer to grow in soil with a pH range between 4.8 and 7.2. Have your soil pH tested by contacting your county extension office and check this box if:
- The results show a reading of 7.5 or higher
Recommended small trees for Aransas County

Anacacho Orchid-tree
Beuhlia cangestia
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Delicate-looking native tree with showy flowers.

More About this Tree

Anacahuite (Wild Olive)
Coralia boissieri
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Bold leaves contrast large flowers.

More About this Tree

Bluewood
Coca ahookleri
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Good tree for wildlife.

More About this Tree

Desert-Willow
Chilopsis linearis
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Hybrid with Northern Catalpa produces "Chitalpa.

More About this Tree

Huisache
Acacia farnesiana
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Tough native tree with sweet-smelling spring flowers.

More About this Tree

Jerusalem-Thorn
Parkinsonia aculeata
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Provides sparse shade, but well-suited to hot, dry locations.

More About this Tree

Waxmyrtle
Myrica cerifera
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Easily adapted to confined spaces; good for coastal landscapes.

More About this Tree

Yaupon
Fier verticaria
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Tolerates a wide range of conditions.

More About this Tree

La Coma
Bumelia leucodora
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Close relative of the more cold-tolerant Gum Bumelia.

More About this Tree

Mexican Plum
Prunus mexicana
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Good fall color; yellow to red to purple; prefers well-drained soils.

More About this Tree

Possumhaw
Taxodium distichum
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Blooms early in the nursery for the berries.

More About this Tree

Texas Mountain-Laurel
Sophora secundaflora
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Excellent drought-tolerant specimen. Outstanding spring blooms. Seeds are toxic.

More About this Tree

Texas Persimmon
 Diospyros texana
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Drought-tolerant native with attractive exfoliating bark.

More About this Tree

Texas Redbud
Cercis canadensis var. texana
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Good choice for Central and West Texas.

More About this Tree

texastreeplanting.tamu.edu
Recommended small trees for Aransas County

Option 5: The place I will plant my tree... (check all that apply)

- Is extremely dry or droughty
- Is poorly drained or stays wet
- Is shady all or most of the day
- Has salty soil or sea-spray
- Has highly alkaline soil (> 7.5 pH)

Texas Tree Planting Guide

Jerusalem-Thorn
Parkinsonia aculeata
Leaf Type: Deciduous
Comments: Provides sparse shade, but well-suited to hot, dry locations.

More About this Tree

Yaupon
Ilex vomitoria
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Tolerates a wide range of conditions.

More About this Tree

Waxmyrtle
Myrica cerifera
Leaf Type: Evergreen
Comments: Easily adapted to confined spaces; good for coastal landscapes.

More About this Tree
Texas State Tree
Pecan Tree
Benefits of Trees

- Noise Reduction
- Crime Prevention
- Produce Oxygen
- Shade and saving energy
- Privacy
- Clean Air
- Food production
- Replenish soil nutrients
- Build Community
- Beauty
- Stabilize Soil
- Enhance biodiversity
- Improve concentration
- Wind Breaks
- Flood Control
- Retain Water
- Carbon capture and storage
- Increased property values
Proper Planting and Care for Trees

Type into Google: texas tree planting for the Texas A&M Forest Service website texastreeplanting.tamu.edu

Tree Planting Tools
Click on images below to view full illustrated guidelines.

Planning Before You Plant
- Landscaping Around Your House
- Planning For Your Available Space
- Planting for Energy Efficiency

Knowing What to Avoid
- Avoiding Problems With Your Tree
- Planting Near Utility Lines
- How to Select a Tree At the Nursery

Tree Planting and Maintenance
- The Best Way to Plant Your Tree
- Pruning Your Young Tree
- How Big Your Tree Will Grow

How to Select a Tree at the Nursery

A High Quality Tree Has:
- Enough sound roots to support healthy growth.
- A single, central trunk or leader
- A trunk free of mechanical wounds and wounds from incorrect pruning.
- A strong form with well-spaced, firmly attached branches.
- Leaves with good color and no obvious insect or disease damage
- Healthy form

What to look for:
- Single Trunk or leader
- Trunk free of wounds
- Trunk flare should be obvious
- Healthy roots should fill up pot but not be circling. (Remove the root ball from the pot and look.)

A Low Quality Tree Has:
- Crushed or circling roots in a small root ball or small container.
- A trunk with wounds from mechanical impacts or incorrect pruning.
- A weak form in which multiple stems squeeze against each other or branches squeeze against the trunk.

What to avoid:
- Undersized yellow leaves
- Dense cover of weeds growing out of pot
- Roots out of pot can mean that the tree has been in the pot too long.
- Avoid tree with circling roots inside container. (Remove the root ball from the pot and look.)
- Avoid multi-trunked or V-shaped trees.
- Avoid a tree with trunk wounds.
Planting Material
Tree Containers
Nursery Tree Size

- Smaller trees take less time & water to establish, they are easier to carry & plant, they are LESS EXPENSIVE.
- Survival and long term health of smaller nursery stock is usually greater.
- Growth rate of small trees is significantly greater when the same species is planted at a larger size.
- Smaller trees are less likely to have a root system in the container that is circling and girdling the tree.
Tree Planting – important point #1

A good root system – prune the roots if necessary

Root-bound  Girdling  Circling
Root Pruning
Circling / Girdling roots kill the tree
Tree Planting – important point #2

Root collar location – plant at the correct depth

Normal root flare or ‘buttressing’
Notice how the trunk flares out all the way around the base of the tree
Root collar location
Digging the Hole

Depth of hole is critical!!
Not deeper than the rootball

How wide? At least 1.5-2x width of rootball

Root collar location – plant at the correct depth
Position the tree and if too deep – add soil to the bottom of the hole

Root collar location – plant at the correct depth
Tree Planting – important points . . .

Add the backfill

Use existing soil, do not amend unless absolutely necessary. No air pockets.
Adding a Berm

3 to 4 inch berm at the edge of the root ball..

forming a berm around the tree prevents water from running off
Water the backfill to settle the soil

Pull these OFF!

Then a few hours later, water again.
Apply a 2-3 inch layer of MULCH to at least as wide as planting hole… *Clear away from the trunk!*
Planting Season: October - March

Don’t plant too deep, keep trunk flare height.
HOW TO WATER OUTPLANTED TREES

Along with proper planting, proper watering leads to strong establishment & fast growth. Frequent & correct amounts of water is key. March through October is crucial.

Three growing seasons Water:
~ 5 gallons per inch trunk caliper

First year: 3 times per week
Second year: 2 times per week
Third year: 1 times per week

Frequency over volume!!!
Test questions:
Helping communities develop sustainable programs that provide Texans with healthy trees and forests.

Emergency Management Office, Kleberg County Courthouse, Kingsville, TX 78363

Cell: 956 373 8543   Office: 361 592 3536
Email: bgreen@tfs.tamu.edu

Trees generate economic, environmental & social benefits for Texans where they live, work & play.
MYTH #1: When a tree is planted it should be securely staked to ensure the development of a stable root system and a strong trunk.

*Although it is sometimes necessary to stake trees to keep them upright and allow establishment, there are some adverse effects of staking.

*Allowing movement helps the root system & trunk development naturally.

*Compared to staked trees, unstaked trees tend to develop a more extensive root system and better trunk taper.

*The worst effect of staking is the possibility of trunk damage from the staking wires or ties.

*Staking materials usually should be removed after one year to avoid "girdling" the tree.
MYTH #2: Newly planted trees should have their trunks wrapped with tree wrap to prevent sunscald and insect entry.

*Studies using most common tree wraps have shown that they do not prevent extreme changes in temperature on the bark. In some cases, the temperature extremes are worse.

*Also, tree wraps have proven quite ineffective in preventing insect entry. In fact, some insects like to burrow under it.
MYTH #3: Trees should be pruned back heavily when they are planted to compensate for the loss of roots.

*Tree establishment is best on unpruned trees.

*Although pruning the top can reduce the amount of water that evaporates from the leaves, the tree needs a full crown to produce the food needed and the plant hormones that induce root growth.

*The tree will develop a stronger, more extensive root system if it has a fuller crown.

*Limit pruning at the time of planting to structural training and the removal of damage branches.
MYTH #4: When removing a branch from a tree, the final cut should be flush with the stem to optimize healing.

*First of all, trees don't "heal" in the sense that wounds on people heal. Our bodies regenerate tissues. Trees form walls that seal all sides of around a wound. *Trees SEAL they don’t heal. (CODIT Compartmentalization Of Damage/Decay In Trees)

*Flush cutting removes the "branch collar," creating a larger wound than if the branch were removed outside the collar.

*The spread of decay inside the tree is greater with flush cuts.
MYTH #5: Pruning wounds greater than three inches in diameter should be painted with a wound dressing.

*Research has shown that the common wound dressings do not inhibit decay, do not prevent insect entry and do not bring about faster wound closure.

*In fact, many of the commonly used dressings slow wound closure.

*DO PAINT IN AREAS WHERE OAK WILT IS FOUND.
MYTH #6: Certain trees such should be "topped" to make them grow better.

*Topping stimulates growth of twigs below the cuts. Growth of these shoots leads to weak forming branch attachments.

*Also decay spreads inside the stubs and branches that were topped.

*Besides, topping makes trees ugly & it stresses the tree.
MYTH #7: If certain species of trees are pruned early in the spring, they will "bleed," stressing the tree and causing health problems.

*True, some trees such as maples and birches will "bleed" or lose sap from pruning cuts made early in the spring. This bleeding does not hurt the tree, and the loss of sap is inconsequential.

*With a few exceptions, most routine pruning can be done anytime of year.

*The worst time is just as the tree has leafed out in the spring.

*The best time is when the tree is dormant.
MYTH #8: **The root system of a tree is a mirror image of the top.**

*Many people envision a large, branching taproot growing deep into the soil.*

*Actually, taproots are very uncommon in mature trees.*

*The entire root systems of most trees can be found within 1-3 feet of soil.*

*The spread of the root system however, can be very extensive, often extending 2-3 times the spread of the crown.*
MYTH #9: Trees require "deep root fertilization" to reach their root system.

*In most U.S. soils, the vast majority of trees' fibrous, absorbing roots are in the top 8" - 28" of soil.

*Roots grow where conditions are best for root growth, where water and oxygen are available.

*When we place fertilizer too deep in the soil, we are putting it below where it will do the most good.
MYTH #10: When a tree has lost a significant portion of its root system such as in construction damage, the crown should be cut back to compensate for root loss.

*While this is a common believe, research has not supported it.

*Any removal of leaves will reduce the capacity of the tree to produce food. The tree will may lose some branches as a result of root damage, it is best to let the tree decide which ones.

LEAVE THE LEAVES

*Pruning should be limited to hazard reduction.
Helping communities develop sustainable programs that provide Texans with healthy trees and forests.

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Kleberg County Courthouse, Kingsville, TX 78363

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Trees generate economic, environmental & social benefits for Texans where they live, work & play.
All meet at
Spencer Park  400 East Bay

Then we plant & divide up to plant at other parks
Zacchary Taylor Arboretum Park
702 South Pearl Street
Mathis Park
810 South Live Oak

Tree provided by TreeCovery Fund
Texas A&M Forest Service
TreeCovery.tamu.edu

Trees grown by Top Notch Tree Farm
topnotchff.com
**Forest Health: Common Invasive Plants in South Texas**

Descriptions of 10 Common Invasive Plants in the South Texas Landscape:

1. **Tree-of-Heaven**: *Ailanthus altissima*. Originally from China, rapid growing tree to 80 feet tall with alternate, compound leaves, 10-40 leaflets with smooth margins on 1-3 foot stalks. Large terminal clusters of small yellowish-green flowers yield wing-shaped fruit on female tree. Forms thickets and dense stands.


3. **Camphor Tree**: *Cinnamomum camphora*. Broad-leaved evergreen that is often twice as wide as it is tall. Grows to 50-100 feet tall. A pungent camphor odor is produced when leaves are crushed. Densely covered with shiny, oval and elliptical leaves, up to 5 inches long, that are chalky on underside. Young leaves are reddish. In the spring, the tree grows 3 inch spikes of very small yellowish-white flowers, which are soon replaced by black pea-sized berries. Seedlings may be abundant on ground at base of parent trees.

4. **Japanese Honeysuckle**: *Lonicera japonica*. Introduced from Japan in the early 1800s for crossen control and as an ornamental. Semi-evergreen, woody vine with simple, opposite leaves. Produces white to yellow (sometimes pink) fragrant flowers from April through September.

5. **Chinaberry Tree**: *Melia azedarach*. Introduced from Asia in the mid-1800s as an ornamental tree. Dark green leaves are doubly compound, alternate, deciduous and display bright yellow fall colors. Fruit is spherical, about 1/3 inch in diameter, yellow, persists on the tree in winter and is poisonous.

6. **Chinese Wisteria**: *Wisteria sinensis* (or Japanese wisteria *W. floribunda*). Deciduous, high climbing, leguminous woody vine. Alternate leaves with 7-15 leaflets (Chinese) or 13-19 leaflets (Japanese). Dangling, showy clusters of lavender to white fragrant flowers. Fruit in form of flattened legume pod 3-6 inches long and about 1 inch wide. Introduced from Asia in 1800s.

7. **Chinese Privet**: *Ligustrum sinense*. Native to China and Europe and brought to the U.S. by the mid-1800s as ornamentals. Mostly evergreen, thicket-forming shrub having opposite, elliptical leaves with smooth margins. Fragrant, white flowers form in spring and produce clusters of dark purple berries by fall.

8. **Giant Reed**: *Arundo donax*. Corn-like stems to 20 feet in height. Grey-green, hairless stems with long lancedate alternate leaves that droop at ends. Terminal forms dense plumes of flowers to 36 inches long.

9. **Johnson Grass**: *Sorghum halepense*. Tall, coarse grass with stout rhizomes. Grows in dense clumps or nearly solid stands and can reach 8 feet in height. Leaves are smooth, 6-20 inches long, and have a white midvein. Stems are pink to rusty red near the base. Panicles are large, loosely branched, purplish, and hairy. Spikelets occur in pairs or threes and each has a conspicuous awn. Seeds are reddish-brown and nearly 1/8 inch long.

10. **Brazilian Pepper Tree**: *Schinus terebinthifolius*. Small tree, to 30 feet, with a short trunk usually hidden by dense, intertwining branches. The leaves have a reddish, sometimes winged midrib. Leaves have 3-13 finely toothed leaflets which are 1-2 inches long. Leaves smell of turpentine when crushed. Flowers are white. The fruits are in clusters, glossy, green and juicy at first, becoming bright red. The red skin dries to become a papery shell surrounding the seed.

For detailed descriptions and more photos, see James H. Miller’s publication “Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests.”

*This plant list is only a recommendation and has no legal effect in the state of Texas.*

*The Texas Department of Agriculture has sole authority to label terrestrial plants as noxious or invasive.*
Texas A&M Forest Service Community & Urban Forestry:
Tree care training, provide technical assistance, assist after a disaster & support with long-term recovery, safety training for city crews, tree management planning, support with city Arbor Day, Big Tree Registry & Famous Trees of Texas
Community Forestry Program

- City & Town crew education (Workshops on tree pruning, tree work safety, etc.)
- Private tree crew education & Arborist Certification
- City & Town Tree Inventory & Tree Management
- Disaster Planning and Recovery
- City & Town Arbor Day, Tree Plantings
- Big Tree Registry & Famous Trees of Texas
**Come Learn with Us – Tree Workshop:**
- Recommended tree species for Aransas County
- How to properly plant & care for trees

**When:** Friday March 16  
**What Time:** 1:15 – 2:30  
**Where:** City of Rockport Building & Development Department  
2751 Hwy 35 N Bypass, Rockport, TX

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**Help Plant Trees In Rockport Parks**

**When:** Friday March 16  
**What Time:** 3:00 – 4:00  
**Where:**  
- *Mathis Park*
- *Spencer Park*
- *Zachary Taylor Arboretum Park*

Just bring your own gloves, we'll have tools for planting the trees.

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These trees are generously donated by people across Texas & other parts of the country through the **TreeCover Fund**

Trees grown by  
Top Notch Tree Farm  
topnotchtf.com

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*Texas A&M Forest Service*
NEWS Release

City of Rockport · 2751 SH 35 Bypass · Rockport, Texas 78382 · (361) 729-2213

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 16, 2018

CONTACT: RICK MARTINEZ, DIRECTOR, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES
PHONE: (361) 790-1136

TREECOVERY EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 16

ROCKPORT, TX – The City of Rockport and the Texas A&M Forest Service will be holding a free TreeCcovery program on Friday, March 16. TreeCover is a Texas A&M Forest Service managed fund to provide free trees and technical support to Texas communities affected by natural disasters.

The event kicks off with a Tree Workshop from 1:15 – 2:30 pm at the Rockport Service Center, located at 2751 SH 35 Bypass. Specialists will be on hand to discuss recommended tree species for Aransas County and the proper planting and care of trees.

Following the workshop, individuals are invited to help plants trees from 3 – 4 pm in three Rockport parks that experienced severe damage. Tools for planting will be provided, but volunteers should bring their own gloves.

Parks receiving trees are Mathis Park, 810 South Live Oak; Spencer Park, 400 East Bay; and Zachary Taylor Arboretum Park, 702 South Pearl Street. The trees were grown by Top Notch Tree Farm and donated through the TreeCcovery Fund.
Trees are a growth investment.

- Increases biodiversity
- Provides shade
- Increases property values
- Reduces flood risk
- Produces O²
- Reduces CO²
- Absorbs dust, noise & pollution
- Reduces stress, improves health
- Reduces ambient temperatures
- Provides a sense of place & community
Benefits of Trees

- Reduce surface flood water run-off
- Provide sense of place & community
- Increase property values
- Provide habitats for wildlife
- Provide shade & reduce ambient temperature
- Lower levels of noise & dust
- Produce oxygen & reduce carbon dioxide
- Encourage walking
- Reduce stress
Soil scientists use a range between 0 and 14 to express differences in pH with below 7 being acid and above 7 being alkaline. Soils with a pH of 7 are considered neutral. Soils in Texas generally range from 4.5 to 8.5.

Soils in the southeastern U.S. Coastal Plain region have meager soil fertility characteristics because of their sandy textures, acidic pH values.