



Live Oak *Quercus virginiana* Secondary Names: Coast Live Oak Leaf Type: Evergreen, Texas Native: yes. Tree Description: A large, stately tree, to 50 ft tall, trunk 4 ft in diameter, large twisting limbs form dense crown that spreads more than 100 feet, the limbs often touching the ground in open-grown settings. Range/Site Description: Occurs on well-drained soils in coastal plain, from Virginia through the Atlantic and Gulf States and into Texas, west to the Balcones Escarpment and south to Hidalgo County. Planted as a landscape tree in Texas. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>

Leaf: Simple, alternate, evergreen, thick, leathery; oblong, elliptical 2" to 4" long 0.5" to 2" wide; smooth, glossy, dark green above, pale and silvery white beneath. Leaves can sometimes be toothed, especially towards the tip. Flower: Borne in spring M/F on the same tree, the male flowers up to 3" long, female flowers 1" - 3" long in leaf axils. Fruit: acorn, one year to mature, 1" long, 0.5" in diameter, oblong, dark brown and shiny. Bark: Dark brown, rough, and furrowed on trunk and large branches, developing very thick, interlacing ridges and deep furrows on older trees. Some specimens have thinner, paler, scaly bark. Wood: Very heavy, hard, strong and tough, light brown with nearly white, thin sapwood; formerly used in shipbuilding and for wagon wheel hubs. Now primarily sold as a landscape tree. Similar Species: Texas live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*) occurs north and west of the Balcones Escarpment in Central Texas and tends to be smaller and multi-trunked. Mexican blue oak (*Q. oblongifolia*) is a rare evergreen oak in West Texas. Interesting Facts: Live oaks prized for curved limbs & trunk, used by shipbuilders in 18th Century to fashion ribs & planking of sailing ships, such as "Old Ironsides." Refitting that ship in 1980's included pieces cut from Texas live oaks killed by oak wilt fungus.



Shumard Oak *Quercus shumardii* Leaf Type: Deciduous Texas Native: yes Tree Description: large tree to 100 ft tall & trunk to 3 ft diameter, wide crown. It often occurs as a single tree or in small groups in forest stands, and is an excellent landscape tree. Range/Site Description: Occurs in East Texas on well-drained alluvial soils and on fertile slopes, west to the Balcones Escarpment near Austin and San Antonio and then northeast to Dallas and the Red River. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>

Leaf: Simple, alternate, 6" to 8" long 4" to 5" wide, with 7 to 9 bristle-tipped lobes (rarely 5), widest lobes on the upper half of leaf, with one or more pairs of deep, rounded sinuses between lobes. Leaves glossy, dark green on top, light green and smooth beneath, except for tufts of pubescence in axils of the veins. Flower: in spring M/F on same tree, male flowers 6" to 7" long, female flowers in the leaf axils. Fruit: acorn, two years to mature, 0.75" to 1.25" long and 0.5" to 1" in diameter, set at the base in a saucer-like cup. Bark: Dark gray, smooth and tight at first, but developing flat, interlacing ridges and rough fissures with age. Old trees can have deep fissures between the smooth ridges. Wood: Heavy, hard, strong, close-grained, and light reddish-brown in color, and commercially important for lumber, furniture, flooring, interior trim, veneer. Similar Species: Texas oak (*Quercus buckleyi*) closely-related Central Texas counterpart to Shumard oak, but smaller leaves and acorns; southern red oak (*Q. falcata*) more variable leaves with pubescent small acorns; black oak (*Q. velutina*) larger leaves with more regular lobing and a fringed acorn cup. Interesting Facts: species named for Benjamin Franklin Shumard (1820-1869), Texas state geologist who organized the first comprehensive geological survey of Texas.



Waxmyrtle *Morella cerifera*. Secondary Names: Southern Bayberry, Wax Myrtle Leaf Type: Evergreen Texas Native: yes. Tree Description: small, multi-trunked tree to 20 feet tall and trunk to 6" diameter, with open crown of light green foliage. Range/Site Description: landscape tree in Texas. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>

Leaf: Simple, alternate, 2" to 4" long and 0.5" to 0.75" wide, evergreen. Flower: Male and female flowers on separate trees. Male flowers appear along the twigs in spring; female flowers similar shape but reddish. Fruit: A round light green drupe, clustered along the twigs, covered with whitish wax. Bark: Smooth, gray. Wood: Bayberry candles are made from the fruit wax; bark and leaves reportedly medicinal properties. Similar Species: Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*). Interesting Facts: Waxmyrtle or bayberry leaves can be used for seasoning meats, sauces, soups, stews and as a tea.



Texas Sabal Palm *Sabal mexicana* Secondary Names: Rio Grande Palmetto. Leaf Type: Evergreen Texas Native: yes. Tree Description: to 50 ft tall trunk to 2 ft in diameter, crown of fronds & "skirt" of dead fronds. Range/Site Description: Native in Rio Grande valley. Planted ornamental purposes, cold-hardy to Austin. Leaf: A large, fan-shaped frond, 4 to 6 feet with a toothless leaf stalk. Central leaf vein forms a stout, curving divide the two frond halves. Flower: Long branched stalks 7 or 8 feet long, bearing the pale flower clusters in spring. Fruit: A round, black berry. 0.5" in diameter, appearing in summer. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>

Bark: Gray, fibrous, tough, prominent leaf scars. Wood/Fiber: trunks used for posts or pilings; leaves used for chair seats and roof thatching. Similar Species: Florida sabal (*Sabal palmetto*) is common landscape palm with shorter leaf stalks; Dwarf Palmetto (*S. minor*) wet areas groundcover. Interesting Facts: The last native stand of the species in the U.S. is the Audubon Society's Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary south east of Brownsville, Texas. <http://sabalpalmsanctuary.org>



Bur Oak *Quercus macrocarpa* Secondary Names: Mossycup Oak Leaf Type: Deciduous Texas Native: yes. Tree Description: large tree +80 ft. tall, diam. 5 ft, short body, heavy branches, open crown. Range/Site: limestone soils on bottomlands along streams or hillsides, landscape tree in Texas. Leaf: Simple, alternate, 6"- 12" by 3"- 6" with 5 - 9 lobes roughly-toothed, weakly-lobed. Fruit: acorn, 1 season to mature, 1" - 2" in mossy-fringed "bur" cup that gives its name. Bark: conspicuous corky ridges after the second year then develops thick deep fissures bark. Wood: Heavy, hard, strong, tough, durable; used for lumber, crossties, and fuelwood. Similar Species: White oak has smaller acorns without a fringed "bur" cup. Interesting Facts: Acorns are prized by wildlife and can be used to make a coarse flour. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>



Mexican Sycamore *Platanus Mexicana* Large 80 ft. tall tree. Leaf Type: Deciduous. Growth Rate: Rapid. Water Needs: Moderate. Tolerances: Drought, alkaline soils. Attributes: attractive seeds-fruit. Features: Upright form; peeling bark; round seed balls; and large leaves with silvery undersides. Comments: Resistant to bacterial leaf scorch and drought conditions. Problems: Fruit and leaf drop. May not be cold tolerant. <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu>



Baldcypress *Taxodium distichum* Secondary Names: Bald Cypress. Leaf Type: Deciduous Texas Native: yes. Tree Description: One of the few deciduous conifers of North America, baldcypress is a large tree to over 100 feet tall and a straight trunk to 8 feet in diameter, with numerous ascending branches. Young trees display a narrow, conical outline, but old trees have a swollen, fluted base, a slowly tapering trunk, and a broad, open, flat top. In swamps they develop distinctive woody growths from the root system called "knees." Range/Site Description: In East Texas, west to the Nueces River and Central Texas, growing on riverbanks, bottomlands, and in swamps which are flooded for prolonged periods. Planted widely as a landscape tree. Leaf: slender & flattened, very narrow, feather-like along two sides of branchlets. Flowering branchlets sometimes have awl-like leaves. Fall color is a striking copper or reddish-brown. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>

Flower: Male conelets or "flowers" appearing in the spring; female conelets small and inconspicuous. Fruit: A rounded cone about 1" in diameter, wrinkled into thick rough scales, greenish waxy coating. Bark: Silvery to cinnamon-red, with papery scales on branches but developing larger flat-topped ridges and numerous longitudinal fissures with age. Wood: Light, soft, easily worked, with a light-colored sapwood and dark brown heartwood. It is particularly durable when exposed to soil and water, so cypress is in demand for exterior trim, boat and ship building, shingles, posts, poles, etc. Also in demand as a landscape tree. Similar Species: Montezuma baldcypress has longer male flower catkins in the spring. Interesting Facts: Central Texas populations of this species do not produce the woody "knees," the function of which is not known. They may serve to help balance the tree on soft, muddy soils.



Mexican White Oak *Quercus polymorpha* Secondary Names: Netleaf White Oak, Monterrey Oak Leaf Type: Semi-evergreen. Texas Native: yes. Tree Description: medium-40 ft tall trunk to 2 ft diameter, broad rounded crown. Range/Site: Naturally only in one U.S. population near the Devil's River in Val Verde County, but more common in Mexico. Now planted widely as a landscape tree. Leaf: Simple, alternate, often with several shallow lobes, thick, leathery, and semi-evergreen, raised veins on yellowish underside, leaves in spring peach-colored, in colder climates leaves are turn yellow-brown. Flower: Male and female flowers borne in spring on same tree, male flowers on catkins, female flowers less conspicuous. Fruit: An acorn, maturing in one year, up to 1" long and enclosed one-half by the acorn cup. Bark: Dark to light gray, developing scales and flaky plates, then shallow fissures on older trunks. Wood: Primarily used as a landscape tree in the nursery trade, and often sold as 'Monterrey oak.' Similar Species: Netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*) has similar venation on the undersides of leaves, but has obovate leaves and is restricted to high elevations in West Texas. Interesting Facts: Only recently discovered in U.S. (1992) as native tree species, but widely available in commercial nurseries. <http://texastreeid.tamu.edu>