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OKLAHOMA PROVEN!

Plant Selections for Oklahoma



SCIENTIFIC NAME INDEX

<i>Acer truncatum</i>	49
<i>Acer saccharum</i> Caddo	41
<i>Acmella oleracea</i> ‘Peek-A-Boo’	8
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i> ‘Golden Jubilee’	13
<i>Angelonia angustifolia</i>	9
<i>Aronia</i>	26
<i>Artemisia</i> ‘Powis Castle’	20
<i>Athyrium nipponicum</i>	18
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> ‘Tangerine Beauty’	27
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	25
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	21
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i> ‘Oklahoma’	48
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	37
<i>Dichondra argentea</i> ‘Silver Falls’	7
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> ‘Magnus’	22
<i>Euphorbia</i> ‘Inneuphdia’	2
<i>Gaillardia</i>	1
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> ‘Siskiyou Pink’	16
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	46
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	4
<i>Helleborus</i>	17
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	32
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	28
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> ‘Margarita’	10
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	36
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	30
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> ‘Whit III’	33
<i>Malus</i> ‘Prairifire’	44
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	34
<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	19
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> ‘Comanche Campfire’ ..	15
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	47
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> ‘Rubrum’	6
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> ‘Monlo’	29

SCIENTIFIC NAME INDEX

<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>	39
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	43
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	40
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	50
<i>Rhamnus carolinianus</i>	45
<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Pink Preference'	14
<i>Scaevola aemula</i>	3
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Magic Carpet'	35
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	38
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	12
<i>Torenia</i> Summer Wave® Series	11
<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	23
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	42
<i>Verbena canadensis</i> 'Homestead Purple'	24
<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	31
<i>Zinnia angustifolia</i>	5

Click on a name to
view photos and
information.

Introduction

Oklahoma Proven is a plant evaluation and marketing program designed to help consumers select the best plants for Oklahoma gardens. The goal has been to select plants that are tolerant of the varied and difficult environmental conditions found throughout Oklahoma. Consequently, using well-adapted plants should lead to greater gardening success and more environmentally-friendly gardens.

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 within that 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:

www.oklahomaproven.org

HAPPY GARDENING!

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All photographs by Lou Anella except:

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The Oklahoma Proven program was started in 1999 by faculty in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University. Since its inception the program has been coordinated by Drs. Lou Anella, Mike Schnelle and Dale Maronek, and they have been assisted by an Executive Committee comprised of industry professionals that met once a year to discuss plants and choose the plants presented here as the best for Oklahoma.

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Current and Past Executive Committee Members*

KEY



native

Plant indigenous to the continental United States or a cultivar or hybrid derived from a native plant.



wildscape

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



drought-tolerant

After initial establishment period, plant can withstand short-term drought. Initial establishment period may be two years for trees and shrubs.



Collector's choice is a recommendation made with adventuresome gardeners in mind. This plant may need special placement or a little extra care, but will be rewarding and impressive in the garden.

Table of Contents

annuals..... pages 1 - 12

perennials..... pages 13 - 24

shrubs..... pages 25 - 36

trees..... pages 37 - 50



Blanket Flower



Gaillardia

Gaillardia is a genus of native wildflower that has captivated gardeners with bright red and yellow flowers and an 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*. *Gaillardia* is often a perennial but it 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:** USDA Zone 4

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 two-foot to three-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 new 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. It prefers a moist, well-drained soil but is quite drought tolerant once established.

- 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 three feet high in full sun and 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





Mexican Zinnia



Zinnia angustifolia

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

- Exposure:** Full sun
- Soil:** Well-drained
- Hardiness:** Use as an annual



Purple Fountain Grass



Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'

Growing three to four feet high, this heat and drought tolerant plant blooms all summer until frost. It provides dramatic accent in sunny beds and borders, with 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 two inches tall and three to four 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

Spilanthes



Acmella 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 and 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 growing 12 to 15 inches tall and spreading 24 to 30 inches.

- **Exposure:** Full sun to part shade
- **Soil:** Moist, well-drained
- **Hardiness:** Use as an annual



Summer Snapdragon



Angelonia angustifolia

Summer Snapdragon is a tropical sub-shrub that can be used as an annual in Oklahoma and will bloom from summer until the first frost. Orchid-like flowers are produced on two-foot-tall spikes and 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, to add color to a mixed border, or in a container. It is drought tolerant and loves full sun and summer heat.

- Exposure:** Full sun
- Soil:** Well-drained
- Hardiness:** Use as an annual



Sweet Potato



Ipomoea batatas 'Margarita'

'Margarita' is a spreading vine with chartreuse leaves, excellent as a ground cover or as a potted plant. This striking new cultivar tolerates full sun to partial shade and can grow to eight inches tall and 20 feet long. It is shown here with Fan Flower and Purple Fountain Grass, other Oklahoma Proven selections.

- **Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade
- **Soil:** Well-drained
- **Hardiness:** Use as an annual



Wishbone Flower



Torenia Summer Wave® Series

The Summer Wave® Series is a collection of hybrid *Torenia*, or Wishbone Flower, that thrive in the summer heat. The plants form a six-inch-high by 12-inch-wide mound 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 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 three 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 two feet tall and one 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 will also 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



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 two to three foot mound and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden. Pruning to six inches high each spring will help keep Autumn Sage dense and full.

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Soil:** Well-drained
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 6





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 to 18 inches and spreads to two 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



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, three to four-foot-tall sprays early in the spring. Blooming will continue until fall if old flower spikes are removed.



- Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade
- Soil:** Well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5



Hellebore



Helleborus

Hellebores, also known as Lenten Rose, belong 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

Japanese Painted Fern



Athyrium nipponicum

Japanese Painted Fern is a deciduous perennial growing to twelve 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



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 and forms a clump almost two feet tall and three feet wide as the leaves arch to the sides. It tolerates a wide variety of conditions but prefers well-drained soils and 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 and may reseed in the garden.



- Exposure:** Full sun to part shade
- Soil:** Well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 7

Mugwort



Artemisia 'Powis Castle'

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



- **Exposure:** Full sun to part shade
- **Soil:** Well-drained
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5



Perennial Plumbago



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

Perennial Plumbago is a neat, well-behaved plant that grows eight inches 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. 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 re-growth.

- Exposure:** Partial shade to full sun
- Soil:** Well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5

Purple Cone Flower



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 two to three 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 light shade
- **Soil:** Well-drained
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 3



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 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 two to three feet high and about two 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:** Shade, partial shade
- Soil:** Moist, well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 4-8

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 but 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 five to 10 feet high and just as broad but 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:** Light shade
- Soil:** Moist, well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 6

Chokeberry



Aronia

There are two species in the genus *Aronia*, Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) and Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), both 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* work 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:** Wide-ranging
- 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 eight 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 for 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 six feet to 10 feet high and wide but 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:** Acid, alkaline, or dry soils
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 2

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' (the cultivar 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:** Full to partial shade
- **Soil:** Well-drained
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 4



Koreanspice Viburnum



Viburnum carlesii

Koreanspice Viburnum is a small to medium sized shrub offering year round interest. In summer the leaves are dark green, fall color can be wine-red. Flower buds are pink to red opening white or pink in spring emitting 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 and though it prefers moist, slightly acid soils, and sun to part shade, it is tolerant of high pH soils and wind-swept conditions. It grows from four to five feet high and just as broad. Several improved cultivars are available.

- Exposure:** Sun to part shade
- Soil:** Moist, well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5-7



Oakleaf Hydrangea



Hydrangea quercifolia

Oakleaf Hydrangea produces beautiful, creamy-white, cone-shaped flowers in early summer. This native shrub grows from six to eight-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.

- **Exposure:** Shade
- **Soil:** Moist, well-drained
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5





Pink Velour® Crapemyrtle



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 ten-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 6b



Southern Waxmyrtle



Myrica cerifera

Southern Waxmyrtle is a broad-leaved evergreen native to the southeast 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. 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 and 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:** Wide-ranging
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 7



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

Winter Jasmine



Jasminum nudiflorum

Winter Jasmine is often mistaken for Forsythia but it flowers earlier and has a longer lasting floral display. It flowers as early as December before its glossy green leaves are formed. It can be pruned and used as a hedge but left untrimmed it will arch gracefully forming a four-foot-high mound spreading to seven 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:** Wide-ranging
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 6



Arizona Cypress



Cupressus arizonica

Arizona Cypress is a drought tolerant, evergreen tree native to the Southwestern United States. In the landscape it usually reaches a height of only 20 to 25 feet and 15 feet wide. The foliage can be a gray-green but usually blue-foliage and recently yellow-foliage forms are available in the trade. 'Blue Ice' and 'Carolina Sapphire' are common cultivars and 'Cokes Peak' is a selection from Cokes Peak, New Mexico with silvery-blue foliage and pyramidal form (see photograph). 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. 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



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 to 30 feet in the landscape. In the Pirin Mountains of Bulgaria there is a 70 foot tall Bosnian Pine estimated to be over 1300 years old! Young cones are purple and turn brown as they mature and the seed they produce is 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 majestic specimen and is an important wildlife species since many animals feed on its large acorns.

- Exposure:** Full sun   
- Soil:** Alkaline, sandy, and clay 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 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:** Prefers well-drained soil
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5-9



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:** Wide-ranging
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 6





Chinese Pistache



Pistacia chinensis

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

- Exposure:** Full sun
- Soil:** Wide-ranging
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 6



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. The diseases that affect many crabapples don't phase this tree and its rounded crown, which will not exceed 20 feet tall, makes it a perfect choice for planting under utility lines or in masses.

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Soil:** Well-drained
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 4





Indian Cherry



Rhamnus carolinianus

Indian Cherry is a small tree (or large, multi-stemmed shrub) to 20 feet tall with a rounded to spreading canopy. It is native to the eastern, southeastern US making it more desirable over its European cousins. The foliage is dark, lustrous green all summer turning yellow to orange yellow in the fall. Probably its greatest asset is the colorful fruits that develop late summer/fall turning red and then to 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 shade
- Soil:** Prefers well-drained soil
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5-9



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 adding winter interest.

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Soil:** Wide-ranging
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zone 4





Persian Parrotia



Parrotia persica

Persian Parrotia is a small tree reaching only 20 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, change to a lustrous green in summer, and can be a brilliant yellow or orange in fall. As the tree ages 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:** Light shade
- Soil:** Moist, well-drained
- Hardiness:** USDA Zone 5

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 to 25 feet high) makes them perfect for use under utility lines. They tolerate a wide range of conditions but do best on 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



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 isn't 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:** Wide-ranging
- 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 reaches 40 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



SCIENTIFIC NAME INDEX

<i>Acer truncatum</i>	49
<i>Acer saccharum</i> Caddo	41
<i>Acmella oleracea</i> ‘Peek-A-Boo’	8
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i> ‘Golden Jubilee’	13
<i>Angelonia angustifolia</i>	9
<i>Aronia</i>	26
<i>Artemisia</i> ‘Powis Castle’	20
<i>Athyrium nipponicum</i>	18
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> ‘Tangerine Beauty’	27
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	25
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	21
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i> ‘Oklahoma’	48
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	37
<i>Dichondra argentea</i> ‘Silver Falls’	7
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> ‘Magnus’	22
<i>Euphorbia</i> ‘Inneuphdia’	2
<i>Gaillardia</i>	1
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> ‘Siskiyou Pink’	16
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	46
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	4
<i>Helleborus</i>	17
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	32
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	28
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> ‘Margarita’	10
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i>	36
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	30
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> ‘Whit III’	33
<i>Malus</i> ‘Prairifire’	44
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	34
<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	19
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> ‘Comanche Campfire’ ..	15
<i>Parrotia persica</i>	47
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> ‘Rubrum’	6
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> ‘Monlo’	29

SCIENTIFIC NAME INDEX

<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>	39
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	43
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	40
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	50
<i>Rhamnus carolinianus</i>	45
<i>Salvia greggii</i> ‘Pink Preference’	14
<i>Scaevola aemula</i>	3
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> ‘Magic Carpet’	35
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	38
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	12
<i>Torenia</i> Summer Wave® Series	11
<i>Tricyrtis hirta</i>	23
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	42
<i>Verbena canadensis</i> ‘Homestead Purple’	24
<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	31
<i>Zinnia angustifolia</i>	5