

San Antonio, Texas, Unified Development Code >> **Appendix E: San Antonio Recommended Plant List—  
All Suited to Xeriscape Planting Methods >>**

**TREES**

**Small:** Fifteen (15) to twenty-five (25) Feet; **Medium:** Twenty (25) to Forty (40) Feet; **Large:** Forty (40) Feet and Higher (60'+)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks	Shade Area
Anacacho, Orchid tree*	Bauhania congesta	S–M	Semi-Evergreen, tree-shrub, white flower clusters	275
Anaqua*, Sandpaper tree	Ehretia anacua	M–L	Evergreen broadleaf; white flower clusters	875
Arizona Cypress	Cupressus arizonica	M–L	Evergreen conifer; gray green foliage; pyramidal shape	875
Texas Ash*, Green Ash	Fraxinus sp.	M–L	Deciduous; fast growing	875
Ashe Juniper*	Juniperus ashei	S–M	Evergreen conifer; green foliage, females fruit	275
Bald Cypress*	Taxodium distichum	L	Deciduous conifer; fine textured foliage; fall color	1200
Black Willow*	Salix nigra	M–L	Deciduous; riparian species	875
Bur Oak*	Quercus macrocarpa	L	Deciduous; large acorns and leaves, good shade tree	1200
Carolina Buckthorn*	Rhamnus caroliniana	S–M	Semi-Evergreen; sun-shade, glossy leaves, reddish fruit	275
Cedar Elm*	Ulmus crassifolia	M–L	Deciduous; narrow canopy, good shade tree for R.O.Ws	875
Chinquapin Oak*	Quercus muhlenbergii	M–L	Deciduous; round-topped tree; bold foliage	875
Condalia, Brazil Tree, Bluewood Condalia*	Condalia hookeri, C. viridis	S–M	Evergreen; delicate foliage; very drought tolerant; sun-shade, good shade tree	275
Cottonwood*	Populus deltoides	L+	Deciduous; large leaves, females fluffy seeds	1200
Crabapple, Texas*	Mollis texana	S–M	Deciduous, full to partial sun, spring flowering tree	275
Desert Willow*	Chilopsis linearis	S	Deciduous; pink tubular flowers; willow-like foliage, very drought tolerant	n/a
Deodar Cedar	Cedrus deodara	L	Evergreen; spreading pyramidal shape	1200
Ebony, Texas*	Pithecellobium flexicaule	S	Evergreen; sun; white flowers	n/a
Escarpment Black Cherry*	Prunus serotina var. eximia	M–L	Deciduous; sun to shade; fall foliage	875
Eve's Necklace*	Sophora affinis	M–L	Deciduous; sun-shade; white to pink	875

			flowers	
Goldenball Lead Tree*	<i>Leucaena retusa</i>	S–M	Deciduous; delicate foliage; fragrant yellow flowers	275
Hackberry*	<i>Celtis</i> spp.	M–L	Deciduous; prolific; wildlife favorite	875
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	M	Deciduous; thornless varieties available	550
Huisache*	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	M	Deciduous; delicate foliage; fragrant yellow flowers	550
Kidneywood*	<i>Eysenhardtia polystachya</i>	S	Deciduous; delicate tree-shrub; fragrant white flowers	n/a
Lacy Oak*	<i>Quercus laceyi</i>	M	Deciduous; sun-partial shade; hill county native, good shade tree	550
Live Oak*	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	M–L	Evergreen-like; good shade tree	875
Mesquite*	<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	S–M	Deciduous; lacy spreading form	275
Monterrey Oak	<i>Quercus polymorpha</i>	S–M	Evergreen-like; good shade tree	875
Mexican Buckeye*	<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	S	Deciduous; pink-red spring flowers	n/a
Pecan*	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	L+	Deciduous; needs lots of space; sensitive to root impact	1200
Persimmon, Texas*	<i>Diospyros texana</i>	S–M	Deciduous; sun-shade, smooth bark; females has black pulpy fruit	275
Plum, Mexican*	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	S	Deciduous; sun to shade; white flowers, fruit	n/a
Possum Haw*	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	S–M	Deciduous; sun-shade; female has red fruit	275
Retama, Paloverde*	<i>Parkinsonia texana</i>	S–M	Deciduous; fast growing, yellow flowers	275
Red Oak, Shumard*	Shumard <i>Quercus shumardii</i>	L	Deciduous; fall color, good shade tree	1200
Red Oak, Texas*	<i>Quercus texana</i>	M	Deciduous; fall color, good shade tree	550
Redbud, Texas, Oklahoma, Mexican*	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var <i>texana</i>	S–M	Deciduous; sun-shade, red/pink or white flowers	275
Rusty Blackhaw*	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	S	Deciduous; fall color, white flower clusters	n/a
Silk-tassle*	<i>Garrya ovata</i>	S	Evergreen; sun-shade	n/a
Spiny Hackberry*	<i>Celtis pallida</i>	S	Evergreen; greenish white flowers, yellow orange fruit	n/a
Sycamore, Mexican	<i>Platanus mexicana</i>	L+	Deciduous; large leaves, good shade tree	1200
Sycamore, Texas*	<i>Platanus glabrata</i>	L+	Deciduous; large leaves, good shade tree	1200a
Texas Mountain Laurel*	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	S	Evergreen, part shade to full sun; fragrant purple flowers	n/a
Texas Pistache*	<i>Pistacia texana</i>	S	Semi-Evergreen; full sun to part-shade; red fruit	n/a
Wafer Ash, Hop tree*	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	S	Semi-Evergreen; sun-shade; light green foliage	n/a
Western Soapberry*	<i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	M–L	Deciduous; full to partial sun; good shade tree, cluster large yellow flowers	875

Wild Olive*	<i>Cordia boissiereri</i>	S-M	Semi-Evergreen; large white flowers, hardy to 14°F	275
Yaupon Holly*	<i>Ilex vomitora</i>	S-M	Evergreen; sun-shade; female has red fruit	275

\*=Texas Native

SHRUBS			
Large (Not Taller than Twenty-Five (25) Feet at Maturity)			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Bay	<i>Laurel noblis</i>	6'–12'	Evergreen, sun-part sun, fragrant leaves
Buckeye*	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	6'–12'	Deciduous (even in dry weather), shade, yellow or red flowers
Evergreen Sumac*	<i>Rhus virens</i>	4'–15'	Evergreen, sun-shade, red fruit
Flameleaf Sumac*	<i>Rhus lanceolata</i>	5'–15'	Sun-partial shade; deciduous; red berries in fall; fall color
Texas Mountain Laurel*	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	10'–25'	Tree-like evergreen shrub; purple spring flowers; sun, part shade
Texas Pistache	<i>Pistacia texana</i>	6'–12'	Semi-evergreen, sun

SHRUBS			
Medium (Five (5) to Ten (10) Feet at Maturity)			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Glossy Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	5'–9'	Bronze evergreen foliage; white or pink; sun, part shade
Agarita*	<i>Mahonia trifoliata</i>	5'–9'	Holly-like evergreen foliage; yellow spring; red edible berries; sun-shade
Cenizo, Texas Sage*	<i>Leucophyllum</i> sp.	5'–9'	Dusty gray evergreen foliage; sun; blooms throughout summer; purple - pink flowers; several new varieties: including compact
Elbow Bush*	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i>	3'–6'	Deciduous; sun-shade, small white flowers, black fruit
Fragrant Sumac*	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	3'–6'	Deciduous; part shade, fall color
Hogplum*	<i>Colubrina texensis</i>	4'–6'	Part shade, full sun; fragrant blooms
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	5'–10'	Tough evergreen; many varieties; sun, part shade
Mutablis Rose, Butterfly Rose, Old Blush	<i>Rosa chinensis</i> x (Mutablis)	3'–5'	Sun, large single petal flowers change color as ages
Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>	5'–10'	Sun, upright shrub; orange blooms; edible fruit; dwarf variety
Primrose Jasmine	<i>Jasminum mesnyi</i>	5'–8'	Evergreen, sun-shade, sprawling, yellow flowers
Southern Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	3'–8'	Evergreen, sun-shade, compact variety, available

White Brush*	Aloysia gratissima	4'–8'	Delicate; fragrant white flower; suckers, can be used as a hedge
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### SHRUBS

Small (Not Taller than Five (5) feet at Maturity)			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
American Beautyberry	Callicarpa americana	3'–4'	Deciduous, fruit in fall and winter, purple; part shade
Agave, century plant	Agave americana	3'–5'	Sun, rosette, spine-tipped leaves
Barbados Cherry	Malpighia glabra	2'–4'	Evergreen, pink flowers, red fruit, sun-shade
Barberry	Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea	3'–5'	Evergreen; sun-part shade, color foliage
Grayleaf Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster glaucophylla	3'–5'	Sprawling evergreen shrub; dusty gray foliage; sun, part shade
Juniper	Juniperus sp.	2'–5'	Evergreen shrubs; many varieties available; sun
Mexican Butterfly Weed	Asclepias tuberosa	3'	Broad clusters of orange flowers
Mexican Oregano	Poliomentha longiflora	2'–3'	Evergreen, sun, pink flowers
Rock rose*	Pavonia lasiopetala	2'–4'	Deciduous; sub-shrub, pink or purple flowers
Rosemary, Upright	Rosmarinus officinalis	3'–5'	Evergreen, sun-part shade; blue flowers
Red Yucca*	Hesperaloe parviflora	3'–4'	Sun, rosette, narrow leaves
Yucca*	Yucca spp.	3'–4'	Sun, rosette, narrow leaves, white flowers

### VINES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Autumn Clematis	Clematis sp.	n/a	Evergreen; fragrant white fall; sun, part shade
Carolina Jessamine*	Gelsemium sempervirens	n/a	Evergreen; yellow spring; sun, part shade
Confederate Jasmine	Trachelospermum jasminoides	n/a	Evergreen; fragrant white spring; sun, part shade
Coral honeysuckle*	Lonicera sempervirens	n/a	Almost Evergreen; red blooms; part shade to full sun
Coral vine, Queen's wreath	Antigonon leptopus	n/a	Pink flowers in late summer and fall; sun
Fig Ivy	Ficus pumila (repens)	n/a	Evergreen; clings to walls; sun, part shade
Lady Banksia	Rosa banksia	n/a	Evergreen, flowers in yellow or white; sun-part shade
Scarlet Clematis*	Clematis texana	n/a	Shade to part shade, spring and summer blooms; red, rust, maroon, or rose-pink
Silverlace Vine	Polygonum ambertii	n/a	Fluffy masses of white; sun, part shade
Virginia Creeper*	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	n/a	Deciduous

**GROUNDCOVER**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Asiatic Jasmine	Trachelospermum asiaticum	n/a	Evergreen; green or variegated foliage; sun, part shade, no flowers
Columbine Hinckley Columbine*	Aquilegia spp. A. hinckleyana	n/a	Evergreen, gray/green foliage, yellow flowers
Confederate Jasmine	Trachelospermum jasminoides	n/a	Evergreen; fragrant, white spring flowers; sun, part shade
Frogfruit*	Phyla incise (nodiflora)	n/a	Semi-evergreen, creeper, sun-part sun, white flowers
Lantana purple, gold	Lantana sp.	n/a	Deciduous, sun, purple, white or yellow flowers
Pigeonberry*	Rivina humilis	1'–2'	Semi-evergreen shrub
Rosemary, prostrate	Rosmarinus officinalis	1'–2'	Evergreen sub-shrub, sun to part sun, blue flowers
Santolina	Santolina sp.	1'–2'	Species with green or silver foliage; sun
Trailing Juniper	Juniperus sp.	n/a	Several varieties available; not suitable for wet, humid areas; sun
Verbena*	Verbena spp.	n/a	Evergreen, pink, purple, white, red flowers
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	n/a	Gray or green gray leaves; many varieties

**GRASSES, TURF**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Bermuda grass	Cynodon dactylon	n/a	Excellent drought tolerance; poor shade tolerance; sun
Buffalograss*	Buchloe dactyloides	4"–6"	Excellent drought tolerance; poor shade tolerance; sun
Prarie mix	n/a	8"–12"	Mixture of Texas native Bunch, can add wildflowers
St. Augustine grass	Stenotaphrum secundatum	n/a	Produces dense turf; shade areas only; poor drought tolerance; sodded

**PERENNIALS**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Butterfly Weed	Asclepias spp.	3'	Semi-hardy perennial, orange flowers
Cigar Plant	Cuphea micropetala	3'–4'	Red, yellow; summer to fall flowers; sun
Fall Aster	Aster spp.	2'–3'	Semi-evergreen, sun-part sun, blue or white
Firebush	Hamelia patens	3'–5'	Reddish orange; summer to fall flowers; sun

Hinckley's Columbine*	Aquilegia hinckleyana	18"	Yellow; spring flowers; shade
Indigo Spires	Sage Salvia spp.	2'–3'	Semi-evergreen, sun, dark blue flowers
Lantana	Lantana sp.	1'–2'	Many colors; spring to fall flowers; sun
Mealy Cup Sage*	Salvia farinacea	3'	Sun, part shade; blue, white, purple flowers
Mexican Oregano	Poliomenantha longiflora	1'–3'	Evergreen; pink; summer flowers; sun
Mexican Petunia	Ruellia sp.	1'–3'	Evergreen; tolerates shade; purple, pink, white flowers, suckers
Mexican Sage	Salvia leucantha	3'–4'	Semi-evergreen; blue; spring to fall flowers; sun
Mist flower, Boneset	Eupatorium spp. and Ageratum spp.	2'–4'	Hardy perennial, white to blue flowers
Muhly Grass*	Muehlenbergia lindheimeri	3'	Evergreen; hardy perennial; sun
Pigeonberry*	Rivina humilis	1'–2'	Semi-evergreen shrub
Purple Cone Flower*	Echinacea purpurea	2'	Hardy perennial, rosette with pink or white flowers
Perennial verbena*	Glandularia bipinnatifida	6"–1'	Many colors; spring to fall flowers; sun
Rock rose*	Pavonia lasiopetala	2'–4'	Deciduous; sub-shrub, pink or purple flowers
Rosemary	Rosmarinus officinalis	1'–4'	Sun, part shade; blue flowers
Shrimp Plant	Justicia spp.	1'–2'	Hardy perennial, sun-part sun; orange, red flowers
Skullcap*	Scutellaria frutescens	1'	Evergreen sub-shrub; pink or purple flowers
Texas Betony*	Stachys coccinea	1'–2'	Evergreen, gray-green; red tubular flowers
Tropical Sage*	Salvia coccinea	2'–3'	Evergreen, red, pink blooms; part shade to full sun
Turk's Cap*	Malvaviscus drummondii	1'–4'	Shade; red flowers
White Rain Lily*	Zephyranthes candida	1'	Ephemeral; sun, part shade; white

#### PALMS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
California Fan Palm	Washingtonia filifera	15'–60'	Tree-like palm; sun. Hybrids with <i>W. robusta</i> can be taller
Dwarf Palmetto*	Sabal minor	3'–7'	Trunkless, bushy palm; sun, part shade
Texas Palmetto*	Sabal texana	10'–25'	Tall, native Texas palm; sun
Windmill Palm	Trachycarpus fortunei	10'–35'	Tree-like; sun; not considered a canopy; good foundation plant
Mexican Blue Palm	Brahea armata	12'–25'	Fan palm with blue-green leaves; sun
Butia or Jelly Palm	Butia capitata	10'–15'	Feather palm with blue-green leaves; sun
European Fan Palm	Chamaerops humilis	6'–12'	Tough, clumping fan palm with spiny petioles
Mazari Palm	Nannorrhops ritchiana	6'–25'	Slow growing fan palm with blue-green leaves
Canary Island Date Palm	Phoenix canariensis	40'	Beautiful feather palm; may be damaged in very cold winters
Needle Palm	Rhapidophyllum hystrix	5'–6'	Clumping shrublike palm foliage for sun to

			part shade
Silver Saw Palmetto	Sorenoa repens	3'–6'	Clumping low palm in both blue and green forms

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Big Bluestem*	Andropogon gerardi	1'–2'	Sun, clump grass
Eastern Gamagrass*	Tripsacum dactyloides	2'–3'	Dense, part shade, full sun
Inland Seoats*	Chasmanthium latifolium	2'–4'	Shade, dappled shade, part shade
Little Bluestem *	Schizachyrium scoparium	1'–2'	Evergreen, part shade, full sun
Maiden Grass	Miscanthus sinensis	3'–5'	Full sun, part shade, specimen or screening
Muhly Grass*	Muehlenbergia lindheimeri	2'–5'	Evergreen, part shade, full sun
Purple Fountain Grass	Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'	2'–3'	Delicate color accent; full sun
Sideoats Grama*	Bouteloua curtipendula	2'–3'	Dappled shade, part shade, full sun
Switchgrass*	Panicum virgatum	3'	Part shade, full sun

RIPARIAN AND AQUATIC			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Remarks
Button Bush*	Cephalanthus occidentalis	6'–10'	Large, deciduous shrub, sun, white ball shape flowers
Indigobush*	Amorpha fruticosa	6'–10'	Large, deciduous shrub, shade-sun, spikes of purple flowers
Roughleaf Dogwood*	Cornus drummondii	6'–15'	Large, deciduous shrub or tree, shade-sun, clusters of white flowers
Crab Apple*	Crataegus texana	8'–15'	Large, deciduous shrub or tree, shade-sun, large clusters of white flowers
Woolly Rosemallow*	Hibiscus lasiocarpus	3'–6'	Large shrub, white to rose flowers
Edwards Plateau Sedge*	Carex microdonta	1"–7"	Rhizomatous perennial, calcareous soils
Bear Grass*	Nolina sp	2'–3'	Large clump, grass-like, shade-sun, good for bank stabilization
Purple Iris	Iris brevicaulis	1'–1.5'	Hardy perennial, purple flowers
Pickerelweed*	Pontoderia cordata .	5'–1'	Aquatic edge, sun, spikes of purple flowers
Horsetail	Equisetum laevigatum	1'–1.5'	Rhizomatous, grass-like, shade-sun, water edge
Blue Water Lily*	Nymphaea	n/a	Floating, semi-sun-sun,
Pond Weed	Potamogeton illinoiensis	8"–16"	Rhizomatous, whorls of purple flowers

\* Texas Native Plant

Note: Red Tip Photinia and Oleander are no longer recommended due to new disease.

(Ord. No. 2006-11-30-1333, § 2, 11-30-06) (Ord. No. 2009-01-15-0001, § 2, 1-15-09)