

## BALDCYPRESS

### *Taxodium distichum*



#### **Description:**

A stately deciduous conifer adaptable to wet or dry conditions. Best known in wet areas, does well in city conditions as far north as Milwaukee. "Cypress knees" occur only near water. Prefers acid soils. Grows to 50' - 70', 25' or more spread. (zones 4-10)

#### **History/Lore/Use:**

Baldcypress trees are native from Maryland along the eastern coast to Texas and as far west as the Mississippi valley. The first scientific reference to the species was made in 1640. This tree has inspired

much poetry and prose over the centuries due to its melancholy and mysterious appearance. Longfellow refers to its "towering and tenebrous boughs" that "Waved like banners that hang on the walls of ancient cathedrals" in his 1847 poem, "Evangeline." Naturalist John Muir in his book "Thousand-Mile Walk" refers to "the dark, mysterious cypress woods which cover everything" and states that "Night is coming on and I am filled with indescribable loneliness."

#### **Leaves:**

This tree's leaves alternate and are two-ranked, simple, semi-evergreen, and pale green color.

#### **Flower Color:**

Brown, faded flower color. Not noteworthy.

#### **Bloom Time:**

April-May.

#### **Fruit Description:**

The fruit is oval, 1 inch long, attractive to wildlife.

## CEDAR ELM

*Ulmus crassifolia*



### **Description:**

Cedar Elm should be grown in full sun on well-drained soil, acid or alkaline. It is very drought-tolerant once established and tolerates wet soil well.

### **Wildlife Value:**

Seeds from trees such as the Cedar Elm are used by wild turkeys, pheasants, quail, squirrels, deer, and songbirds. Dead Cedar Elms provide nesting sites for cavity-dwelling birds.

### **History/Lore/Use:**

The Cedar Elm is a favorite street tree for towns in the desert southwest due to its ability to survive in difficult soil types with very little care.

### **Leaves:**

This tree has green leaves in summer that turn a lovely yellow in fall.

### **Flower Color:**

The Cedar Elm has light-green blooms.

### **Bloom Time:**

It blooms in early summer..

### **Fruit Description:**

This tree produces small, round green fruit.

## CHINESE PISTACHE

*Pistacia chinensis*



### Description:

Chinese Pistache grows quickly in full sun to partial shade on moderately fertile, well-drained soils and will withstand heat and drought extremely well. The crown is quite round and symmetrical on older specimens when grown in full sun but becomes misshapen in too much shade - best for full sun areas.

Grows in clay, loam, or sand in a wide range of soil pH.

### Wildlife Value:

Used by Xeriscape (dry landscaping) gardeners as a critical addition for wildlife. The seeds provide food for small rodents and birds while the flowers provide food for insects.

### History/Lore/Use:

This tree is popular in California and it is also used as the understock for commercial pistachio growers. It has been described as the "Ugly Duckling" because it turns from an unattractive and misshapen young tree into a magnificent specimen tree.

### Leaves:

The leaves of the Chinese Pistache are lustrous and dark green in summer and a beautiful orange to red in the fall.

### Flower Color:

The Chinese Pistache has green blooms that are not showy.

### Bloom Time:

The Chinese Pistache blooms in April and May..

### Fruit Description:

The female Chinese Pistache produces a small, round (1/4" diameter) orange to red nut.

## LIVE OAK

*Quercus virginiana*



### Description:

This magnificent, broadleaf evergreen tree will be a picturesque addition to your landscape. It grows rapidly when young and may live to be centuries old. Adapts to almost any soil. Live Oaks can be used as street trees. Tolerant of salt spray. Grows 40'-80', with an 80' spread. (Zones 7-10)

### Wildlife Value:

Sweet live oak acorns are at the top of the food preference list for birds such as wood ducks, wild turkeys, quail, and jays, and mammals such as squirrels, raccoons, and whitetail deer.

### History/Lore/Use:

The Live Oak provides one of the most indelible images of the Old South. The huge branches of Live Oak festooned with Spanish Moss and spreading horizontally over grassy lawns conjure up images of antebellum plantations. The tree has long been a favorite tree not only for its beauty and shade, but for its strong and dense wood. It was once so valuable for wooden vessels that the Navy maintained its own Oak forests. The early Native Americans liked it too, extracting an oil from its sweet acorns that was something akin to modern olive oil. It earned its place in American history as the lumber used in the construction of the naval frigate USS Constitution, and when British cannon balls bounced off the hull during a battle, the vessel was thereafter known as "Old Ironsides."

### Leaves:

This tree's leaves are leathery, 2 to 5 inches long and usually have a smooth margin that rolls slightly downward and inward. They are dark, glossy green on top and paler beneath, often with fine down. The leaves persist into the following spring.

### Flower Color:

Brown, faded.

### Bloom Time:

April-May.

### Fruit Description:

This tree produces acorns that are green, turning dark brown at maturity. They are about 3/4 inch long and borne singly or in clusters of up to 5.

## PIN OAK

*Quercus palustris*



### Description:

Pyramidal through early maturity, its form turns more oval in older age. Fast-growing, tolerates wet soils, likes full sun. Glossy dark green leaves turn russet, bronze or red. Grows to 60' to 70', 25'-45' spread. (zones 4-8)

### Wildlife Value:

Pin oak acorns are eaten by wild turkeys, whitetail deer, squirrels and smaller rodents, but are a particularly important food for many ducks.

### History/Lore/Use:

The name Pin Oak comes from its short, tough branchlets that are located along the branches and limbs. Its native habitat is the moist bottomlands of the central Midwest and middle Atlantic states. First observed scientifically prior to 1770.

### Leaves:

This tree's leaves have deep sinuses that extend 2/3 or more to the midrib separating 5 (sometimes 7 to 9) lobes. Medium green in summer with copper or red autumn color.

### Flower Color:

Brown, faded flower color. Not noteworthy.

### Bloom Time:

April-May.

### Fruit Description:

Fruit is round, 1/2 inch long, nearly round with a thin, saucer-like cup of small, tight scales.

## RED CRAPE MYRTLE

*Lagerstroemia indica* 'Whit IV'



### Description:

Red Rocket produces huge clusters of cherry red flowers throughout hot sunny summer conditions, blooming from July to September. Red Rocket is considered one of the fastest growing crape myrtles up to 5 feet per year. This all-season tree adds ornamental value to your landscaping year round with attractive crimson red new growth, unique bark, showy flowers, and fall color. It is deer resistant and

makes a good stand alone plant or as part of a mixed border. Does best in moist or well drained soils. Once established is drought tolerant requiring little watering making it a good water-wise choice. Height 10' to 15', Spread 12' to 15' (zones 7 to 9)

### Wildlife Value:

Attracts birds

### History/Lore/Use:

The common crapemyrtle is a native of China and Korea. It is called the "lilac of the South." The number of cultivars is enormous. Among these, the U.S. National Arboretum introductions are important for their disease resistance, good flowering, and ornamental bark.

### Leaves:

Red flowers from mid-summer to early fall. Heat and drought tolerant; mildew resistant. New growth is crimson; fall foliage is orange to red. A good specimen or part of the mixed border. Deer resistant.

### Bloom Time:

April-May.

## **RED OAK**

*Quercus rubra*



### **Description:**

Bristle-tipped leaves turn red in the fall. The leaves have 7 to 11 waxy lobes. A good street tree, tolerates pollution and compacted soil. Grows as much as two feet a year for 10 years. Grows to 60' to 75', 45' spread. (zones 3-8)

### **Wildlife Value:**

Red oak acorns are at the top of the food preference list for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer,

raccoons, and black bears. Deer also browse the buds and twigs in wintertime.

### **History/Lore/Use:**

The Red Oak has been a favorite of both lumbermen and landscapers since colonial times. The tree has also found favor when transplanted in Europe. It is believed that Bishop Compton's garden, near Fulham in England, received the first Red Oak transplant abroad in the late 17th century. In 1924, there were over 450 acres of Red Oak plantations in Baden, Germany.

### **Leaves:**

The leaves alternate, simple, 4 to 8 inches long with pointed, spine-tipped lobes. Dark green color turning russet-red to bright red in autumn.

### **Flower Color:**

Pale, yellow-green catkins appear at about the same time new foliage is expanding.

### **Bloom Time:**

April-May.

### **Fruit Description:**

The Acorn is round, 3/4 to 1 inch long, flat, thick, saucer like cap, brown.

## WHITE CRAPE MYRTLE

*Lagerstroemia indica*



**Description:** The common crapemyrtle is a deciduous, small to medium sized shrub or small tree with a variable, moderately dense habit, often multi-stemmed form. The showy pink flowers have wrinkled petals like crepe paper. The foliage is dark green changing in fall to yellows, oranges, and reds. The thin gray bark is exfoliating, exposing a smooth, vari-colored under bark ranging from brown to gray. It needs plenty of moisture when young. After it is

established it will tolerate drought and grow well in limited soil spaces. During the growing season, new growth can be pinched to increase flower number and branchiness. The branches will droop as the tree grows. The lower branches are often thinned to show off the trunk form and color. Because pruning can significantly reduce cold hardiness, you should try to have it completed by early August. Plant 3-4 apart for a single row hedge.

### **Wildlife Value:**

Attracts birds

### **History/Lore/Use:**

The common crapemyrtle is a native of China and Korea. It is called the "lilac of the South." The number of cultivars is enormous. Among these, the U.S. National Arboretum introductions are important for their disease resistance, good flowering, and ornamental bark.

### **Moisture:**

Prefers moist soil but has good drought tolerance

### **Leaves:**

The leaves are opposite or the upper alternate, simple, 1-2 3/4" long, 3/4-1 1/2" wide, oval to oblong, lustrous medium to dark green with showy, yellow, orange or red colors in the fall. White flowered trees produce yellow fall color.

### **Flower Color:**

Pink 6-8" long, 3-5" wide showy panicles on new growth.

### **Bloom Time:**

late spring and summer into fall.