Plant List 5
Small Deciduous Trees
And Large Deciduous Shrubs I
Reading Assignments

In *Landscape Plants For Texas And Environs, Third Ed.*

- Intro materials on trees (p. 681, 997) and shrubs (p. 682, 807)

- Family descriptions for:
  Aceraceae (p. 65), Anacardiaceae (p. 67), Aquifoliaceae (p. 68), Bignoniaceae (p. 71), Boraginaceae (p. 72), Cornaceae (p. 77), Ebanaceae (p. 80), Fabaceae (p. 82), Hippocastanaceae (p. 84), Lythraceae (p. 87), Malvaceae (p. 88), Moraceae (p. 89)

- Descriptions for individual species

See page listings on Plant List 5 Handout
(Also available under lists on course website)
**Large Shrubs & Small Trees**

*Fill Multiple Voids As Design Elements*

- Seasonal / year-round accents
- Topiaries / espaliers
- Street trees under utility lines
- Screening / backgrounds / light suppression
- Night lighting / focal points in designs
- Barrier plantings / traffic direction
Large Shrubs & Small Trees Provide Multiple Ecosystem Services

- Wildlife cover / nesting / forage or mast
- Wind breaks / tall hedges / erosion control
- Naturalizing / habitat restoration
- Home / commercial orchards
- Pollinator support
Acer palmatum
Japanese Maple

- Small tree / large shrub, 8’-20’, rounded crown
  - Noted for fine delicate red to green foliage
  - Selections for varied growth form, leaf shape, leaf color, & twig color
  - Variable cold tolerance from USDA zones 5 to 8
  - Good fall color in cold regions
  - Pairs of red samaras can be an asset

Necrosis
Acer palmatum
Japanese Maple

- Not well adapted to heat, drought, high pH or poorly drained soils, or poor quality water
- Requires shade in much of TX
- Intolerant of salt exposure
- Versatile featured specimen, accent, understory plant
- Nice branch architecture
Acer spp.  Maples

Highly utilized genus with numerous species in many temperate landscapes world-wide

A. griseum
A. negundo
A. miyabei
A. davidii
A. floridanum
**Acacia farnesiana**

**Sweet Acacia**

- Small vase-shaped or flat-topped tree, 15’ - 20’ tall
- Evergreen, fine textured, highly fragrant yellow flowers in spring
- Foliage cold hardy to z. 8a, flowers buds to 8b-10
Acacia farnesiana
Sweet Acacia

- Light airy appearance, tropical flavor; very drought & heat tolerant, tolerates high pH soils
- Better tolerance to seasonally wet soils than typically reported in texts; pollinator support
- Thorns can be maintenance hazard; weedy
Acacia greggii
Catclaw Acacia

- Small tree / large shrub, 20’ - 30’ tall, USDA z.7 - 10
- Creamy white flowers, numerous vicious thorns
- Acacias can be limbed up or sheared as barrier plants
- Extremely drought tolerant; tolerate high pH & salinity
Cercis canadensis

Three Varieties of Redbud

Cercis canadensis var. texensis

Cercis canadensis var. mexicana

Hybrid swarm

Cercis canadensis var. canadensis

Courtesy Rowman & Littlefield Publ. Group; redrawn from originals by Benny J. Simpson
Cercis canadensis
Eastern Redbud

• One of most popular small trees for American landscapes
  – Hardy in USDA zones 4 - 9 with proper provenance selection, more cold tolerant than Texas or Mexican varieties
  – Single or multi-stem, rounded crown

• Glossy green foliage, pink, pink-purple, or white flowers in early spring, shreddy red bark

• Best growth on rich moist well drained soils, but adapted to wide range of sites

• Botryosphaeria canker & Verticillium wilt are the main limitations
Cercis canadensis var. texensis
Texas Redbud

- Smaller, more drought and alkaline soil tolerant than C. canadensis var. canadensis
- Smaller dark glossy green leaves with more undulate margins than on C. canadensis var. canadensis
Cercis canadensis var. mexicana
Mexican Redbud

- Smaller tree, more drought, and alkaline soil tolerant than C. canadensis var. texensis
- Leaves smaller, more glossy, & undulate margins than on C. canadensis var. texensis
Aesculus pavia
Red Buckeye

- A small deciduous tree or shrub, 10’ to 15’ (30’) tall, native to Eastern North America; USDA zones 5-9
- Striking red (sometimes pink or pale yellow) spring flowers, buckeyes in leathery capsules in late summer/fall
- Attractive dark green palmate leaves senesce early due to various foliar diseases, often defoliated by mid-summer
Aesculus pavia
Red Buckeye

- Typical understory plant, best on uniformly moist acidic soils, but can survive sunny drier higher pH sites
- Taprooted and slow grower
- Naturalizing, informal settings, attracts wildlife
Aesculus parviflora

Bottlebrush Buckeye

- Spreading, 6’ to 8’ (15’) tall, deciduous shrub native to the Southeastern USA, hardy in USDA zones 5 - 9
- A pleasingly coarse form / texture and long panicles of white summer flowers enhance this species’ landscape potential
- Less affected by foliar diseases than A. pavia and A. glabra, and it can develop good yellow fall color
**Aesculus parviflora**
**Bottlebrush Buckeye**

- Best in shade with uniformly moist acidic soils, but survives drier neutral pH soils
- Understory plantings, shrub border, massing, foundation plantings on large buildings
- Deserves wider testing in East and Central Texas landscapes
Chilopsis linearis
Desert Willow

- Small, 15’ - 20’, deciduous tree, USDA z. 7 (6b?) - 10
  - Irregular rounded crown, single or multi-trunk; brittle
  - Open canopy gives filtered shade, movement in breezes

- Catalpa-like flowers in smaller terminal panicles
  - Heavy bloom in spring, sporadic individual flowers and lesser flushes following rain events through mid-fall
  - White, light pink to maroon pink, bicolors, musky scent
Chilopsis linearis
Desert Willow

- Rapid grower; limestone soil, salt, heat, drought tolerant, but intolerant of poorly drained soils
- Super patio or accent tree, picturesque, but messy capsules
Chilopsis linearis
Desert Willow
Iced, iced, baby…
Leucaena retusa
Goldenball Leadtree

- Irregular vase to rounded crown open deciduous tree, 15’ – 20’ (25’)
- Bright yellow 1” powderpuff-like flowers, late spring to frost
- Very drought and heat tolerant, hardy in USDA z. 7 - 10
- Casts filtered shade
- Brittle wood subject to wind / ice / snow damage
- Good small tree for West Texas & arid regions; needs good drainage
- Bit slow to establish and hat-rack appearance when young
Sophora affinis
Eve’s Necklace

- Small tree, 15’-20’, oval to rounded crown, single or multi-stem, medium fine texture, slow grower in nursery

- Excellent Texas native, deserves wider use; very underrated tree
Sophora affinis
Eve’s Necklace

- Hardy in z. 7 - 9 (10), tolerates soil salts, drought, heat and limestone soils
- Pink to nearly white chains of pea-like flowers
- Seeds poisonous, fruit persistent and can be maintenance liability; careful with herbicides
Jacaranda mimosifolia

Jacaranda

- A medium size, 45’ to 50’, upright oval to rounded tree in USDA z. 10(9b)-13; smaller in TX
- Fine textured bipinnately compound semi-evergreen to evergreen foliage
- Valued for handsome 8” to 10” terminal panicles of fragrant trumpet-shaped lavender blue, purplish blue, to white flowers
**Jacaranda mimosifolia**

**Jacaranda**

- Heat, drought, and wind, but not salt or cold tolerant
- Use clones from mature trees to promote early flowering
- Popular subtropical / tropical shade tree, street, or park tree; prone to frost damage
Cordia boissieri
Anacahuite or Mexican Olive

- Shrub or small tree, 10’ - 15’ tall from South Texas and NE Mexico, USDA zones 9b (9a) - 13
- Handsome evergreen foliage & umbrella form; inedible fruit
- Showy white mid-spring to early summer, sporadically thereafter
Cordia boissieri

Anacahuite or Mexican Olive

• Prone to root rots in wet soils, but is resistant to cotton root rot

• Soil pH adaptable, & tolerates heat and drought

• Courtyard or patio tree, pruned as a hedge, naturalizing S. TX
Farmers At Work?
Cornus florida
Flowering Dogwood

- Small deciduous tree native to East Texas & Eastern USA
- One of most popular small trees in Eastern USA; hardy in mesic portions of USDA z. 4-9
- Requires well drained acidic soils & moderate moisture
- Borers, anthracnose, powdery mildew may all be problems
Cornus florida
Flowering Dogwood

- Valued for four-season interest
  - Attractive white or pink bracts in the spring
  - Handsome dark green foliage in summer
  - Maroon, red, orange, to yellow fall color
  - Red berries from late summer to early winter
  - Blocky alligator-hide bark
Cornus drummondii
Rough-Leaf Dogwood

- Thicket-forming shrub or small tree native to Central and Eastern North America, including Texas
- Useful in USDA zones 4 - 9
- Flowers small and in mildly showy white clusters, showy white fruit follow flowers if not eaten by wildlife
- Leaf spots affect summer foliage; fall color is variable; tendency to sucker
- Tolerates wider range of sites than C. florida, but less showy
Several other members of this genus are grown in temperate landscapes worldwide.

- *C. kousa* var. *chinensis* ‘Samaritan’
- *C. sericea*
- *C. sanguinea*
- *C. mas*
Cotinus coggygria
Common Smokebush

- Large shrub / small tree, deciduous, green to purple-red foliage; red-orange fall colors in North Texas
- Much branched panicle of pedicles & peduncle, off white to purple-pink, late spring / early summer
Cotinus coggygria
Common Smokebush

- Hardy in USDA zones 5-8
- Soil and site adaptable, best in northern half of the state
- Prone to cotton root rot
- Bit irregular and leggy in habit

Wind damage
**Cotinus obovatus**
American Smokebush

- Large shrub / small deciduous tree, blue-green summer foliage, excellent yellow/orange/red fall color
- Texas native, intolerant of poor drainage, tolerates dry limestone soils, zones 4-9 with proper provenance
**Diospyros kaki**  
Japanese Persimmon

- Small, 10’ - 20’, tardily deciduous upright oval to rounded crown tree; rather harsh & coarse looking
- Source of commercial persimmons, 3” orange, orange-red, or yellow fruit; generally inferior to native persimmons for landscaping; z. 8(7b) - 9
**Diospyros texana**
Texas Persimmon

- Small, 15’- 25’, single or multi-stem round crown semi-evergreen tree useful in USDA z. 8(7b) – 10a
- Bark very attractive, sinuous, shiny light gray in youth, developing patchy exfoliations as ages; night lighting?
Diospyros texana
Texas Persimmon

- Requires excellent drainage; heat & drought tolerant
- Black fruit are important wildlife food; no fall color
Ficus carica
Common Fig

- Large coarse textured deciduous shrub
  - 10’ - 12’ tall, multi-stem, upright oval
  - Foundations / corner of large buildings, home orchards; USDA zones 7(6b) - 10
- Any sunny site with well-drained soils
- Large seasonal screen; coarse accent
- Coarseness in summer foliage is asset, but tends to be a liability in winter appearance
**Ficus carica**
Common Fig

- Any sunny site with well-drained soils
- Source of commercial fig production
  - Open versus closed eye
- Fruit production and quality varies widely within the region, see local extension agent or nursery professional for best cultivars
- Latex in stems can be a dermal irritant
Hibiscus syriacus
Rose-Of-Sharon

- Cold hardy (USDA z. 5b - 9)
large deciduous upright oval shrub / small tree, to 12’

- Single or double hibiscus-like flowers 3”- 4” across, white, pink, red, purple, pale blue
Hibiscus syriacus
Rose-Of-Sharon

- Tendency to legginess with age
- Sometimes weedy, lots of seed capsules
- Infected by aphid, white fly, spider mite, & scales
**Ilex decidua**
Possumhaw

- Deciduous large shrub / small tree, 8’-12’ tall, hardy in z. 4 - 9
- Nondescript summer foliage, superior red, pale yellow, or orange drupes on females
  - Excellent fall & winter effect, duration is determined by availability of alternate bird foods
- Best on acidic sites, tolerates neutral pH, heat, & heavy clay soils; tendency to legginess
Ilex decidua
Possumhaw

- Dioecious, so pick female clones, but needs compatible male pollinizer for good fruit set
- Northern clones may abort fruit in southern heat
- Winter specimen, summer screen, bioswales / LID
**Lagerstroemia indica**

Common Crapemyrtle

- One of best small deciduous trees for southern states
  - Variable, herbaceous perennial (6b), shrub (7a), tree (7b)
  - 1’ dwarf shrubs to 25’ tree; single to multi-stem trunks
- Four-seasons of interest
  - Glossy green summer foliage, white, red, pink, purple summer flowers, yellow, orange, red fall color, mottled winter bark & sinuous trunk, excellent night-lighting effects
**Lagerstroemia indica**

**Common Crapemyrtle**

- Crapemyrtle aphids, flea beetles, powdery mildew, & spent seed pods can be problems, **crapemyrtle scale** is new threat; sometimes used to monotony

- Incredibly widely adapted, avoid use in shade to improve flowering and decrease powdery mildew

*Just say no! Stop crapemurder!!!*
Lagerstroemia fauriei
Copperbark Crapemyrtle

- Similar to Lagerstroemia indica except;
  - Larger than L. indica, to 30’(+)
  - Flowers smaller and only in white
  - More resistant to powdery mildew
  - Spectacular copper-colored under bark
  - Heavy capsule production liability in winter

- Slower to acclimate to cold temperatures in autumn than L. indica, under good acclimation conditions more cold hardy than L. indica, with poor fall acclimation, less cold hardy than L. indica
Lagerstroemia speciosa is actually a tropical timber tree

There are many related species of Lagerstroemia from shrubs to large trees that can be used in subtropical / tropical environments
Questions / Comments?

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