

# TOUGH TREES FOR OKLAHOMA

## **Bald Cypress**

*Taxodium distichum*

- native to swampy areas, and grows profusely in a wide range of soils
- must have full sun and considerable moisture
- a moderate to rapid grower, can grow 60-100 ft. high, pyramidal shape
- fern-like needles turn coppery bronze in the fall before falling off

## **Bur Oak**

*Quercus macrocarpa Michx*

- can tolerate poor soil and low rainfall better than other oaks
- a slow to moderate grower to 80 ft. tall with a 30-50 ft. spread
- acorns are sometimes as large as 2 inches in diameter
- occasional aphids and spider mites but not a concern

## **Chinese Pistache**

*Pistacia chinensis*

- drought resistant, tolerates extreme heat and drying winds
- grows well in urban area regardless of soil conditions
- a moderate grower, 20-40 ft. high with a 20-30 ft. spread
- has brilliant orange to red orange color in the fall

## **Kentucky Coffee Tree**

*Gymnocladus dioica* (male only)

- attractive tree with a light crown that is open and loose
- tolerates poor, rocky soils, either well drained or poorly drained, likes sun
- a moderate grower 60-80 ft. tall with irregularly spreading branches
- male tree is preferred, female has seed pod which is poisonous

## **Lacebark Elm**

*Ulmus parvifolia*

- drought and wind resistant, can tolerate poor, compacted soil
- a rapid grower 40-50 ft. high with a 30-40 ft. spread
- has a round to oval crown, low branches, not a central leader
- leaves turn pale yellow in the fall
- attractive grayish, orange brown lacy, flaking bark

## **Oklahoma Redbud**

*Cercis reniformis*

- "Oklahoma" cultivar is the most drought resistant and will tolerate most soils
- needs full sun
- a slow grower with a round canopy reaching a height of 25 ft. with a 15 ft. spread
- pink to purple flowers in the spring
- foliage turns yellow to yellow green in the fall with brown seedpods

## **Pinyon Pine**

*Pinus cembroides*

- tolerates a wide range of soil types, and hot locations with drying winds
- can not tolerate wet, heavy clay soils
- a slow grower reaching 20-30 ft. high with a 15-20 ft. spread
- rounded, upright with a central leader
- dark green to blue green needles with a grotesque looking cone
- pine tip moth may kill some new branches but this will make the tree more compact

## **Sawtooth Oak**

*Quercus acutissima*

- prefers acidic, well drained soils but adapts to others
- a moderate to fast growing, rounded tree, 35-45 ft. tall and wide
- dark green leaves turn yellow to golden brown in the fall, remain on the tree all winter

**Shumard Oak***Quercus shumardi*

- will tolerate urban conditions, can grow well in poor soil
- a moderate to rapid grower reaching 80-100 ft. with a 50-60 ft. spread
- can tolerate restricted root systems such as between a sidewalk and curb

**Sugar Maple***Acer saccharum*

- cultivar “Caddo” is extremely drought resistant and tolerant of drying winds
- a very dense shade tree which makes it difficult to grow anything beneath it
- a slow to moderate grower reaching up to 60-80 ft. with a 40-60 ft. spread
- fall color is a brilliant red to red orange to yellow

**Western Soapberry***Sapindus drumondi*

- extremely tough, tolerates poor soil with little moisture
- fruit is mildly poisonous and very bitter to taste, may cause a rash in some people
- a moderate grower, 30-40 ft. tall with a 25-35 ft. spread and slightly weeping branches
- brilliant yellow gold in the fall

**Winterberry Euonymus***Euonymus bungeana*

- well adapted to dry soil and most exposures
- sometimes used for windbreaks and screens
- a moderate grower 15-20 ft. tall and 10-12 ft. wide
- leaves turn pink to red in the fall
- showy fruit is yellow to pinkish-white, opens to expose an orange seed coating in the fall

## UNDESIRABLE TREES FOR OKLAHOMA

Some of the trees listed below are popular and widely planted. Each tree has some negative features that you should be aware of before considering them for your landscape needs.

<b>Bradford Pear</b>	susceptible to fire blight, old branches split easily
<b>Cottonwood</b>	weak wood, is short lived, gets root rot
<b>Crabapple</b>	many pests and disease
<b>Green Ash</b>	borers and disease
<b>Lombardy Poplar</b>	has invasive roots, suckers, is short lived, gets crown gall
<b>Silver Maple</b>	weak, soft wood that breaks easily
<b>Pin Oak</b>	iron chlorosis
<b>Purpleleaf Plum</b>	pests and disease, short lived
<b>Siberian Elm</b>	weak wood, elm leaf beetles