

Small to medium trees for gardens

Botanical name	common name	size	very low H2O	low H2O	need H2O	high H2O	comments
Acer palmatum	Japanese maple	Small, 15'+			xxx		Needs plenty of moisture, especially when young. Considered acid-loving, but most damage on leaves is more likely from heat, wind, drought. Prefer to be lightly shaded by a larger tree, or on the east side of a house. Established trees in shade and sheltered from wind can tolerate some drought once established.
Acer truncatum	Chinese, Shantung, purpleblow maple	Small tree 20' x 20'		xx			Good substitute for Japanese maple! Small tree with attractive, shiny leaves, spreading "planar" growth habit. Nice fall color. Tolerant of heat, sun, wind and some drought.
Arbutus x 'Marina'	Strawberry tree	Medium tree, tall shrub, 20' or more		xx			Showy pink-red flowers and small crops of bright orange fruit, beautiful bark that looks like its cousin madrone. Heat and drought tolerant. Grows 1 to 2 feet a year. Gets quite large with age, but can be pruned. Attracts hummingbirds. Evergreen.

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Cercis canadensis 'Merlot'	Redbud, Merlot	Small		xx			Merlot is similar to Oklahoma redbud, but with vivid burgundy foliage in spring that stays purple in summer. One of the best redbuds for garden or landscape. Shiny leaves, upright habit. Excellent large shrub or small tree. Good sub for redleaf plum.
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow	Small/ Med, 30'+	x				Lavender pink blossoms with darker outer petals over a long season. Very attractive to hummingbirds. Very drought tolerant. Foliage resembles willow, but it's not related. Light, open shade.
Cupressus sempervirens 'Glauca'	Italian cypress	40'+	x				The classic Mediterranean formal column. Tolerant of heat, wind, poor soil, drought. Grows 2 to 3 feet a year.
Malus x	Crabapples	Small/ Med, Varies				xxxx	Many varieties available: upright, spreading, some very weeping. All can take heavy soil, lawn watering. Flowers are red, pink, white. Look for fireblight resistance. Suckers are a problem.

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Olea europea	Olives	Small to medium tree, 15 - 25'	x				Many varieties. Olives take heat, wind, drought, and have unique structure. Fruiting types are messy. "Fruitless" varieties often set some fruit. Fruiting olives produce prodigiously, but some need cross-pollination. Research olive fruit fly before you plant them for oil. Common allergy plant.
Podocarpus (now Afrocarpus) gracilior	Fern pine	Tall			xxx		Very graceful, useful evergreen tree that we often grow as a large shrub or espalier. Shiny, dark green leaves. Will take all but the hottest sun, as well as considerable shade. Drought tolerant. Evergreen.
Podocarpus henkeli	Long-leafed yellow-wood	Tall		xx			Broader-leaved, denser-growing species. Great for a solid, dark-green hedge in moderate sun or shade. Ultimately can get to 30 ft or more but easily controlled by pruning.
Prunus cerasifera 'Krauter Vesuvius'	redleaf flowering plum	Small/ Med, 15'			xxx		Plum with red leaves that stay burgundy through the summer. Usually very light fruit production. Grows 2 - 3' a year to about 15' or so with equal spread.

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Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'	Cherries, flowering	Small/ Med., 20'+			xxx		Flowering cherries need good drainage. Make sure the bark doesn't get sunburned. This one is especially showy, with large double pink flowers and a vase-shaped habit.
Prunus x 'Snow Fountains'	dwarf Weeping cherry	Small/ Med, 10'			xxx		Beautiful dwarf flowering cherry: a fountain of single white flowers. Naturally weeping, staked up to desired height. Orange & gold fall color. 8 - 10' tall, 6' spread. Official name is 'Snofozam'.
Prunus x blireiana	flowering plum	Small/ Med, 20'		xx			The best flowering plum for most uses. Reliably fruitless. Grows about 3 feet a year to 15 to 20 feet. Generally taller than broad, but can be pruned or shaped. Soft pink flowers very early, bloom here with the almonds. Foliage is burgundy red in spring, aging to dark green.
Prunus x yedoensis	Cherries, flowering	Small/ Med, 15'			xxx		Beautiful flowering cherry with a spreading and slightly weeping habit. Billows of soft pink, double flowers. Give it room to spread--about 15' across. Paint the trunk with interior white latex paint when young to prevent sunburn. Needs excellent drainage.

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Cotinus coggygeria purpureus, Royal Purple	Purple Smoke Bush	Small		xx			Purple leaves and purple flowers make a striking contrast with grey or glossy-leaved plants. Very tolerant of drought and heat. Other varieties with green leaves are more stressed by heat and drought.
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple guava	Small tree, tall shrub, 10 - 15'	x				Fuzzy grey-green leaves make a nice contrast with red-leaved or shiny-leaved shrubs. Tasty fruit, but plant cutting-grown cultivars if you want reliable fruit production. Edible flowers! Very drought tolerant.
Lagerstroemia indica X fauriei 'Catawba'	Catawba crapemyrtle	Tall			xxx		Dark purple, to 15'. Orange-red fall color. Mildew resistance good. Crapemyrtle aphid is a problem.
Lagerstroemia indica X fauriei 'Centennial Spirit'	Centennial Spirit crapemyrtle	Tall			xxx		Dark pink/red, to 12 - 15 feet tall and wide. Slow grower, shrubby. Mildew resistance good. Crapemyrtle aphid is a problem.
Lagerstroemia indica X fauriei 'Zuni'	Zuni crapemyrtle	Med height			xxx		Dark lavender. Slow growth to about 10'; easily kept lower. Orange-red to maroon fall color. Mildew resistance high. Crapemyrtle aphid is a problem.

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Laurus nobilis	Sweet Bay, Grecian Laurel	Small/ Med	x				The bay leaf used in cooking. Grows 2 o 3 feet a year, very upright columnar habit. Dioecious tree grown from seed, so half are male and half female. Female trees do set berries and the tree can reseed. Easily pruned for size and shape.
Laurus nobilis 'Saratoga'	Saratoga bay	Small/ Med	x				Interesting hybrid of two species of Laurus, not including L. nobilis. Grows 2 to 3 feet a year, somewhat spreading/round growth habit. Pungent foliage. Male cultivar, no fruit or reseeding. Easily pruned for size and shape.
Punica granatum	Flowering pomegranate	Small tree, tall shrub, 8 - 20'	x				All pomegranates tolerate heat, wind, drought, poor soil. Great choice for west exposure. These are shrubby growers with large double flowers, no fruit.
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste tree	Small tree, tall shrub, 6 - 15'		XX			Deciduous flowering shrub or tree to 10 feet or more tall and wide. Light blue flowers in summer are very attractive to the larger bees. White and dwarf forms also available. Fast-growing with light green palmate leaves. Tolerates heat, drought; will grow in partial shade.

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