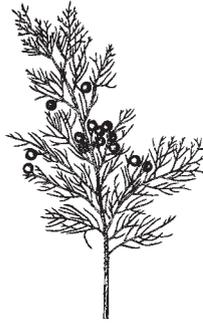


15. Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

This evergreen tree thrives across the eastern half of Texas, especially on rocky limestone bluffs and outcrops. It resembles a Christmas tree in its shape and coloring. The heartwood of this tree is a rich shade of red. Its aromatic wood is used for closets and cedar chests due to its insect repellent properties. In the fall, female trees bear bluish berry-like cones containing seeds that are an important food source for many migratory birds.



16. Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

Look closely at the distinctive sawtooth edges of the leaves on this chinkapin oak, which is a member of the white oak family. This “mott” or group of chinkapin oaks produce plenty of the sweet acorns that are a favorite food for squirrels, raccoons, deer, quail and turkeys.



Life's better outside.®

Plant illustrations from *Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southwest* by Robert A. Vines with drawings by Sarah Kahlden Arendale, 1960, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas.

PWD BR P4503-032N (4/11)

In accordance with Texas State Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.

EISENHOWER STATE PARK

Armadillo Hill

Nature Trail Guide

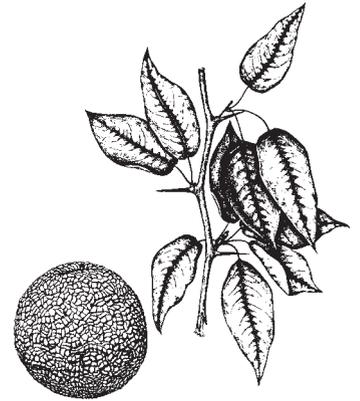


Life's better outside.®

1. Bois D'arc or Osage Orange Tree

Maclura pomifera

You can easily identify the Osage orange tree by its orange papery bark and sharp thorns. Caddo Indians prized its strong, flexible wood for making bows. French explorers named it bois d'arc, meaning “wood of the bow” and the name is pronounced *bo-dark*. The Osage Indians used the roots to make an orange dye. Female trees like this one produce large, bumpy, green fruits commonly known as horse apples that are consumed by wildlife.



2. Cedar Elm

Ulmus crassifolia

The adaptability of the cedar elm to different soils and environments makes it the most widespread native elm species in Texas. It is the only elm that flowers and seeds in the fall. Cedar elms grow 30-60 feet high. You can recognize the cedar elm by its small, rough sandpapery leaves. Many young branches often grow a corky, wing-like structure along the sides of the branch.



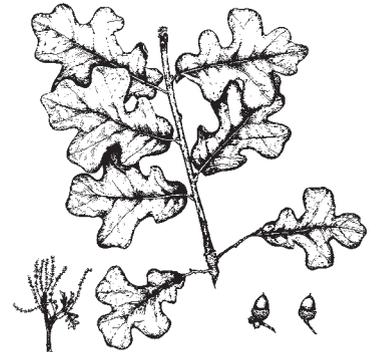
3. Erosion at Work

This small ravine shows the effects of erosion and weathering. Water running down this ravine, mostly coming off the hillside and roadway above, is slowly eating away the earth by transporting the rock and soil downstream.

4. Post Oak Bench Overlooking Lake Texoma

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built 89,000-acre Lake Texoma in the 1940s to capture the waters of the Red River and the Washita River. Known as the “Striper Capital of the World,” Lake Texoma is one of the few reservoirs in the nation where striped bass reproduce naturally and catfish grow to over 100 pounds.

The tree behind the bench is a post oak (*Quercus stellata*), one of the common indicator trees of the Eastern Cross Timbers ecoregion. Early settlers used its heavy, decay-resistant wood for cabins, fence posts and railroad ties.



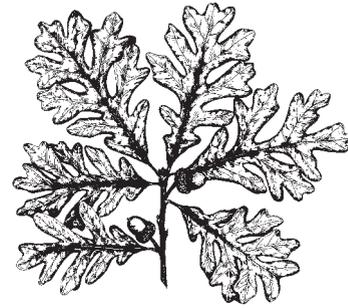
5. Kiamichi Formation Limestone

This fossil formation was created and deposited during the early Cretaceous period around 100-130 million years ago. The embedded fossils in this rock are composed mainly of the oyster species, *Gryphaea navia* and ammonites, *Cephalopoda ammonoidea*. Outcrops of this formation are found all over Eisenhower State Park in places of similar elevation.

6. White Oak

Quercus alba

This large forest tree grows to a height of 100 feet and provides excellent shade with its dense foliage of finger-like lobed leaves. Each leaf has 7 to 11 lobes and can grow to over a foot in length. Squirrels, deer and other animals enjoy the acorns. Notice how this white oak seems to join with a white ash tree at its base.



7. Decomposing Bois d'arc Tree

This decaying trunk is naturally being broken down by weather, fungi, algae and insects. This process helps recycle nutrients back into the forest. Soon this decomposing tree will be reabsorbed into the ground, but until then it offers a suitable home for forest animals.

8. Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

The eastern redbud announces the arrival of spring by bursting into a showy display of pinkish-red flowers. During the rest of the year, you can identify this tree by its heart shaped leaves and seeds shaped like pea pods. A special bacteria in its roots helps take nitrogen from the atmosphere and convert it into a form usable by plants.



9. White Oaks vs. Red Oaks

The rounded lobes on the leaves of this bigelow oak (*Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba*) indicate it belongs to the white oak family. The neighboring shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) with pointed lobes on its leaves belongs to the red oak family. In addition to different leaf shapes, the bark of white oaks is generally lighter and smoother than bark of a red oak. Most animals prefer the sweeter acorns of white oaks to the more bitter taste of red oak acorns.



10. Native Prairie

Grasslands like this small prairie once covered much of Texas. Due to the suppression of fire by man, shrubs and trees like the eastern red cedars on the edge of this prairie invade our natural grasslands, threatening the survival of prairie ecosystems.

11. White Ash

Fraxinus americana

The small trees growing in the middle of the prairie are white ash, also known as the cane ash. The wood of these trees is tough but flexible, bending into various shapes without losing its strength. White ash wood is ideal for making baseball bats and other sports equipment such as hockey sticks, polo mallets and tennis rackets.



12. Shumard Oak

Quercus shumardii

This fast-growing tree can attain a height of 120 feet, making it one of the largest in the southern red oak family. Unfortunately, this particular tree has suffered from disease and a strong wind which blew part of it over. In the fall, its leaves turn bright gold and brilliant red. The wood of the Shumard oak is widely used for commercial lumber, cabinetry and furniture.



13. Roughleaf Dogwood

Cornus drummondii

This small tree or shrub often grows in thickets, providing cover for wild turkeys and other animals. It gets its common name from its rough, hairy leaves. It blooms in late spring with white flowers and then produces small, round, white fruits favored by many bird species.



14. Virginia Creeper

Parthenocissus quinquefolia

While often confused with poison ivy, Virginia creeper leaves have five leaflets instead of three. When in doubt, remember "leaves of five, let it thrive; leaves of three, leave it be." This particular vine is growing around a white ash tree, although it also grows along the ground and through shrubs. Bold red flowers grow from this vine where it catches enough sunlight filtering through the trees.

