

GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

November, 2023 **Oklahoma Native Trees**



Common Name: Shumard Red Oak

Botanical Name: *Quercus shumardii*

Shumard red oak is a deciduous tree that is a staple in the Oklahoma landscape. It grows 40 to 60 feet tall and 30 to 40 feet wide with a pyramidal crown in youth that spreads to be broad and open with age. This low-maintenance oak will tolerate a variety of soil conditions but prefers acidic soils with dry to medium moisture in full sun. Reddish-brown, sometimes scarlet, fall color appears late in the season.



Common Name: Sweetbay Magnolia

Botanical Name: *Magnolia virginiana*

This magnolia is native to the eastern United States. Its flowers appear sporadically throughout the summer and are not as large as the more popular southern magnolia, but are still just as fragrant. The foliage and twigs have a bayberry scent. Besides the flowers, the leaves are also ornamental, with a silvery under color. Sweetbay magnolia are semi-evergreen depending on the severity of the winter.



Common Name: Loblolly Pine

Botanical Name: *Pinus taeda*

The tree's brown, oval cones grow to 3-6 inches and have short thorns. The loblolly pine tree's bark is dark brown or brownish-red and separates into scaly plates as the tree matures. Its tall, straight trunk will not have knots for up to 30 feet high. Loblolly pines will grow 70 to 90 feet tall.



Common Name: Chickasaw Plum

Botanical Name: *Prunus angustifolia*

This Oklahoma native tree produces an abundance of very tasty fruit. The red-orange plums are about an inch across and ripen in the late summer. Birds, squirrels and other wildlife eat this fruit. And it can be made into jams and preserves. This tree can grow suckering stems and form a thicket. Its branches are covered in short, pointy side branches that are thorn-like. An early spring display of white flowers really wakes up the landscape for the growing year.



Common Name: Bur Oak

Botanical Name: *Quercus macrocarpa*

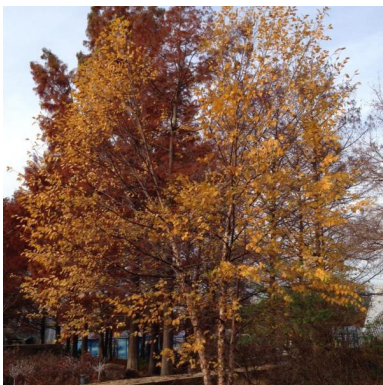
Bur oak acorns are the most attractive feature of this tree. They can be over an inch and a half long. The cap nearly covers the whole acorn and is rough and scaly with a tiny, tentacle-like fringe. Bur Oaks are tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. The bark on a mature tree's trunk will be deeply furrowed and smaller branches can have corky wings on them. The shade from this tree will be very deep since its leaves are large and have few deep lobes.



Common Name: Black Tupelo

Botanical Name: *Nyssa sylvatica*

The black tupelo tree is most noted for its spectacular fall color of scarlet, orange or yellow. They grow to 30 or 50 feet tall. Plants are primarily dioecious (separate male and female plants). The fruit is a half inch, dark blue in color and a good food source for birds.



Common Name: River Birch

Botanical Name: *Betula nigra*

River birch is a medium-sized tree growing 40 to 70 feet tall and 40 to 60 feet wide. In its native habitat, river birch occurs in full to part sun in floodplains and along streams. It can be grown as a single or multi-stemmed tree and is prized for its papery peeling bark and golden-yellow fall color.



Common Name: Bald Cypress

Botanical Name: *Taxodium distichum*

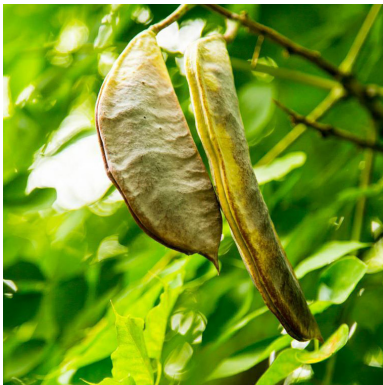
The bald cypress is one of only five conifers that lose their leaves in the fall, hence the name "bald." The soft, needle-like foliage will turn golden-brown to cinnamon-colored before dropping. In their native range, bald cypress grow in wetlands but are tolerant of a wide range of soils in cultivation, including well-drained. In wet soils they often produce woody growths referred to as "knees" that stick straight up out of the soil from the root system.



Common Name: Redbud

Botanical Name: *Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma'

You'll know spring is here when the redbuds are blooming. The pinkish-purple flowers of this redbud cover the branches before the heart-shaped leaves emerge. In addition to being a reliable show of spring color, the seed pods persist into winter offering interest. This cultivar has eye-catching, heart-shaped, shiny leaves. The redbud became the Oklahoma state tree in 1937. This plant is in the Legume, or bean, family Fabaceae. Plants in this family enrich the soil by fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere back into the soil.



Common Name: Kentucky Coffee Tree

Botanical Name: *Gymnocladus dioica*

This unusual tree, native to Oklahoma and midwest North America, is esteemed for its rough textured bark and peculiar bean pods. Bluish leaflets sprout from its ash-gray branches in spring and turn yellow in the fall. Delightfully fragrant flower clusters appear in late spring and develop into large, flat pods that resemble the shape of snap peas. Kentucky coffee tree seeds can be used as a no-caffeine substitute for coffee beans, but they're dangerously toxic unroasted.



Common Name: Western Soapberry

Botanical Name: *Sapindus saponaria* subsp. *drummondii*

This Oklahoma native tree can grow very large, up to 50 feet tall. The mature bark heaves and peels very distinctively. Soapberry has a peculiar yellow-orange translucent berry in the late summer that persists into the winter. Birds will eat the fruit. The flesh of the berries makes a soap-like froth when mixed with water. The autumn foliage is often an attractive yellow.

