Recommended Trees & Shrubs
for Guadalupe County, and Surrounding areas
Compiled by: Leigh Ann Marez, Guadalupe County NMSU Extension Agent

A Growing Guide for homeowners...
Due to its location in the central part of the NE quadrant of NM, Guadalupe County has a great variation in weather conditions. The southern and eastern part of the county are subject to high winds during the spring and summer, but sometimes all year; the north and west part of the county are subject to major variability in regard to early and late frosts and planting directives. It should also be noted that, our high winds, which can occur year round, along with extreme variability in temperatures across the County, can present challenges to growers. The windy conditions dry our soils quickly. Planting of any vegetation, be it farm crops or landscape plants such as trees and shrubs, is tricky and requires growers to be diligent and patient.

The following selection of trees and shrubs are varieties that should perform well in locations across Guadalupe County. They have been selected on their ‘hardiness’ to withstand extreme temperature variability and many on their drought resilience—some varieties better than others. Before growers plant, however, they are advised to research the desired variety of plant and determine when to plant it for their individual location in the County, soil profile and management style. (Refer to additional growing guidance by accessing the NMSU publication links provided below.)

Many of the following trees varieties were taken from a Chavez County CES publication, Trees adapted To Roswell and Southeastern New Mexico. Not all the trees from that publication are listed here, in this guide for Guadalupe County, only those that the Guadalupe County CES office feels are best suited to our conditions! Please refer to the following NMSU Circulars for additional growing information located at:

ACES HORTICULTURE PUBLICATIONS, http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/#ornamentals GOOD LUCK, Growers!

Shade Trees for New Mexico, NMSU Circular H-462; Establishing Fruit and Shade Trees, NMSU Circular H-420
Selecting Ornamental Trees for New Mexico; Circular H-328; Fruits and Nuts for Orchard, Circular H-310

Large Deciduous Shade Trees

NOTE: even if a particular tree review states that a tree is drought tolerant, that does not mean it does not require adequate water. The term ‘drought tolerant’ is best understood as ‘the ability to withstand a PERIOD of REDUCED water, provided there was SUFFICIENT water BEFORE and AFTER the drought event’. Establishment and ongoing health of ALL tree varieties requires regular and consistent water.

ASH TREES

Arizona Ash—Also known as velvet ash, Arizona ash is a medium sized tree with fairly small, bright green leaves. Little water, alkaline soils and high sunlight intensity are conditions in which these trees survive, although they do best with adequate water. These trees are fast growing, reaching 30-40 or more feet when mature. They may be susceptible to some disease problems, though not as susceptible as the Green and White Ash. They develop a compact, symmetrical head that turns golden yellow in the fall.

Autumn Purple Ash

Autumn Purple or WHITE Ash is a male tree introduced in 1956, growing 40 to 50 feet tall and perhaps 35 to 50 feet wide, and is a cultivar of the species which is native to moist locations. The tree grows rapidly and is almost pyramidal with a round top when young, but gradually slows down and develops an oval shape. The Autumn Purple Ash prefers a sunny exposure where it will develop its consistently -outstanding, deep red, maroon or purple fall color. Fall color often comes earlier than on other trees. I can not think of another tree with better, long-lasting fall color. Though susceptible to the ‘green ash borer’, this tree does well in Guadalupe County and seems to resist disease more then the Green Ash. (see image)
Raywood Ash
Of all the different ash species in the ornamental trade, the cultivar 'Raywood' is known for its exceptionally striking wine red fall foliage. Often referred to as 'Claret Ash', Raywood Ash grows 40'-50' tall with a 25' spread in a landscape, opening into a full, rounded canopy with age. On better sites this species can grow even taller and wider. The bold round-headed form is perfect to cast summer shade. Leaves are lanceolate in shape and have serrated edges. During the summer foliage is dark green, but in the fall the notable purple foliage color begins. This tree should be grown in full sun and is moderately drought-tolerant once established. Although these trees can tolerate wet sites, they will perform much better in well-drained conditions. Surface rooting is reported to be a problem on wet sites. Limited disease issues reported with this particular variety, though growers should be diligent with disease scouting.

Cottonwood
The Cottonwood is a very fast growing shade tree with soft wood. Trees can out-grow a small yard in no time at all. The Cottonwood gets it's name from the "cotton" or seeds that look like cotton, produced in the spring. There are “cottonless” varieties, but make sure you purchase this ‘variety’ from a reputable nursery to ensure that the tree is a cottonless variety. In addition, the ‘cottonless’ varieties are male, and pollen may be problematic for allergy sufferers. The Cottonwood is a beautiful large shade tree, with a broadly rounded crown and widely spreading branches, requiring full sun and plenty of water (a high water-needs tree, native to our area, found growing in creeks and riverbeds). The leaves yellow in the fall, before falling, which equals beautiful fall color. Recommended varieties—Plain & Fremont.

PROBLEMS: The tree is prone to webworm attack and with the wood being so soft, strong winds may break branches. Also, the large surface roots cause problems with septic tanks, sprinkler lines and even buckle up sidewalks. JUST a WARNING!!

London Planetree is a hyrbid of the American Sycamore. It is a widely planted street tree, and for good reason. Its attributes were discovered in London where the new hybrid first appeared around 1645. The tree was found to thrive in the sooty air and provide wonderful shade. Its ability to withstand air pollution, drought and other adversities assures its popularity as an urban and rural tree. Strong limbs also help make the London Planetree a good choice where site conditions allow for its large size. Beyond its reputation as a survivor, this tree is simply worth admiring. The unique bark and interesting branching give it amazing visual appeal—whether summer or winter.

PROBLEMS: Since it is a relative of the sycamore, it does drop fruit balls, and has moderate allergen properties. The London Planetree requires space as well as moderate to high water usage.

Hackberry
The Hackberry is an interesting tree with rough corky bark. Resistance to diseases and most pest problems, coupled with it’s other attributes make this a very different but good tree choice for the Southwest landscapes. The tree is well adjusted to alkaline and limestone soils with a high pH and can be grown in any area of southeastern NM. It is a rapid growing tree with good branching habits growing to about 90 feet in height with a canopy of about 50 feet. It provides food for many birds and animals. This tree does not cause allergy conditions and is very drought tolerant. Requires full sun and moderate watering. (both the Common Hackberry & Netleaf variety are recommended.)
ELMS

The Elm tree is one of the first trees to leaf out, light green leaves grace the wispy branches in early spring. Elm trees are fast growers and become quite large shade trees, requiring full sun and moderate watering. They can do well in heat and drought conditions, however they thrive in moist locations. Elm trees love water, like the Mulberries and Willows, and their surface roots will seek out septic tanks, swimming pools, sprinkler system pipes and any other water sources. Listed here are a couple of GOOD choices for Elm Trees, resistant to Dutch Elm disease. There are many cultivators that are resistant to the disease. Make sure you check them out! Note—The Siberian elm is NOT recommended as it can be a highly invasive tree to areas, causing constant ‘sucker’ sprouts.

Cedar Elm—Though not native to NM, the Cedar Elm is native to neighboring Texas. It is a well adapted tree for this area, tolerating alkalinity and limestone soils. Cedar elm is completely resistant to the Elm Leaf Beetle, has small, rough leaves blooming late in the summer, and does not present allergy problems. This is a beautiful, dark green leaved tree that reaches a height of 40-60 feet, and has a canopy of about 35 feet in our area. It is a moderate water user.

Lace Bark Elm — This HIGHLY recommended cultivated variety of ELM is a better choice for the Southwest desert landscapes. It has very attractive exfoliating bark and it is highly resistant to Dutch Elm disease. The Lace Bark Elm tree grows 50-80 feet in height with a 40 foot crown, small leaves and an open canopy. This tree is non-aggressive, blooming in the fall, not making seed, and is NOT an allergy-causing tree. It has bark that, as mentioned and pictured, is exfoliating or so called, ‘scaley’, that peels off to leave smooth bark. The Lace Bark Elm is a moderate water user. GREAT CHOICE!!

LOCUSTS

Locust trees are fast growers, providing filtered shade to plants growing under them. They require full sun and moderate watering. Deciduous, hard-wood trees, growing from 30 to 70 feet high. Wild Locust trees can be found growing along old ditch-banks throughout the Mesilla Valley in New Mexico.

Honey Locust

In it’s natural state, this tree grows to 80-90 feet tall, with a thorny trunk and branches and loose open crown. Improved male varieties (such as Globemaster and Shade-master) do not produce the large unsightly bean pods which are messy. These are the recommended Honey Locust varieties for a good shade tree. Other varieties do produce seed pods and are MESSY! These trees do very well in our alkaline soils.

Rose Locust

A rapid growing tree which only gets to be about 24 feet tall, with spiny branches and lovely pink, heavy flowers which hang pendulously from the tree, early spring to mid July.

Black Locust

A fast growing, drought-tolerant tree, it attains heights of 40 to 60 feet. It has penny-size leaflets and bears racemes of white or pink flowers in May and June. This tree has thorny branches, although improved varieties can now be bought in a thornless state with purple or pink spring blossoms. It is useful in windbreaks, for shade, and especially in lawn areas.
OAKS

Oak trees are long-lived hard-wood trees, which do very well in the desert Southwest, though they need to be watered well. The information on the oaks listed was gathered from an CES publication entitled Trees adapted to Roswell and Southeastern NM.

Bur Oak—This tree can grow to 100 feet, with heavy, spreading limbs and a broad band. It is MASSIVE in size and well adapted to our area soil and related problems. This oak is dark green in color through the summer, with occasional trees turning red in the fall. Most of these trees turn bright yellow in the fall. The litter and acorns from these oaks can be somewhat of a ‘mess’ to homeowners. The water use of these trees is high.

Chinquapin Oak
A BEAUTIFUL tree that is considered to be an ornamental tree as well as a shade tree due to its large, green leaves covering the outside canopy and giving a clean interior and a light, airy feeling. It grows 40-60 feet in height and has a canopy of 40-50 feet! A rapidly growing oak in it’s early years, it can reach 35 feet in height with a 30 foot canopy in about 18-20 years...that is rapid for our area! It naturally sheds its light, grayish brown bark continually throughout the year, adding texture and interest to the landscape. This particular oak grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained, wet and clay soils. It tolerates wet conditions and some drought but does best in well drained areas that do not experience severe drought. NICE TREE!

Emory Oak—an oak that grows into a large 60-100 foot nicely rounded shaped tree with black bark. Usually considered an ‘evergreen’ oak, as it loses its foliage in the spring of the year, not fall, as typical deciduous trees do. This oak is well adapted to areas with less than 18 inches of rain per year and 3000-8000 feet in elevation.

Shumard Oak Although this tree is not a native of this area, it is recommended. A member of the black oak family, it is one that has adapted to high pH soils and will reach heights of 40-80 feet. This oak is dark green throughout the summer and provides beautiful reds and oranges in fall color. This tree is the recommended Red oak for the Roswell area and should do well in Guadalupe County, though it is not sure exactly how well Shumard Oaks handle alkaline soils—a better choice is probably the ...

Texas Red Oak Texas Red Oak is a medium to small tree, rarely growing over 75 feet, but usually 30 to 50 feet, with spreading branches. It is found on alkaline limestone and neutral to slightly acid gravels and sands of north central and central Texas west to the Pecos River. Texas Red Oak is smaller, more often multi-trunked, and more drought tolerant than Shumard Red Oak. The foliage turns bright shades of vivid red and orange in autumn. The bark is dark gray to black with plate-like scales, although sometimes it is light gray and smooth. Water use for this tree is moderate to low.
WALNUTS (dual purpose shade/nut)

**Arizona Walnut**—An excellent shade tree with filtered shade that allows for lawn growth underneath! The large, dark green canopy will grow 30-90 feet. It may be self pruning, dropping twigs, especially when growing under stress. It may limit growth of plants within the drip line by production of allopathic chemicals. It is well adopted for this area and an interesting and beautiful shade tree. It produces a small, thick-shelled nut with a small edible kernel. *Note: these trees can grow to tremendous size and require heavy water use.*

**Texas Little Walnut** Little walnut is a native and grows from southwestern Kansas through Oklahoma and Texas, south into northeastern Mexico. Little walnut would commonly be located within the narrow riparian forests adjoining a river or creek bottom. Little walnut is considered a small to medium tree growing to a height of 20 to 30 feet. Plants may have a single or multiple trunk with spreading low branches. Produces small edible nuts. If bottom branches pruned (multiple trunks), it can offer a dual role in shade, and fruit (nut) production.

**Crabapple**. An ornamental flowering tree with lavish white, pink or red flowers in spring. Does bear small fruit. Varieties vary in their disease-resistance. Not all are heat tolerant. This little tree likes full sun. These trees grow upwards of 30 feet tall, and drop fruit for wildlife. This does make them a messy tree at times, and the flowering Crabapple is subject to disease and insects (*NMSU Guide H-328*). Also, the Crabtree is a moderate to high water usage plant. It does add a pretty color to landscapes, while not taking up too much space. *Great pollinator for bees!*

**Desert Willow** A great tree for the desert Southwest, it actually grows wild in New Mexico arroyos. Medium growth, 15 to 25 feet high, full sun and very drought and heat tolerant. Beautiful, showy flowers in shades of white to pink grace the tree from late spring through the summer, followed by long slender seed pods. Flower and seed litter could be a problem in rock landscapes, but the delicate flowers make the Desert Willow tree is absolutely worth planting into Guadalupe County landscapes.

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**Smaller Trees & Small Flowering Trees**

*NOTE: even if a particular tree review states that a tree is drought tolerant, that does not mean it does not require adequate water. Establishment and ongoing health of ALL tree varieties requires regular and consistent water*
Golden Raintree
A beautiful, colorful tree that grows 30 to 40 feet in height. The tree is a moderate grower, requiring full sun and regular watering. Golden Raintree flowers are fragrant and a very showy yellow, appearing in June to July. The bright, lustrous green foliage turns brilliant shades of yellow, crimson and bronze in the fall. This tree is really worth planting in the desert Southwestern garden and does very well in the desert heat. It can be kept small, so it would be great for patio gardens or anywhere an ornamental tree is needed. PROBLEMS: This tree attracts the box elder bugs, which can come around in the fall. They are basically harmless, but can add an ‘ick’ factor for homeowners!

New Mexico Olive (New Mexico Privet)
A deciduous shrub or small tree of the Oleaceae (ash) family. Native to New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, west to California. Little use outside of arid regions. Fairly fast growth makes it a good screening plant as well as a landscape item in arid climates. Does well in full sun. Does well in riparian areas (along streams and near lakes). This is a tree that can be pruned and used in a variety of ways. Sometimes multi-trunked—which can easily turn into a ‘shrubby tree’. This plants makes for an attractive landscape tree, short enough to grow beneath utility lines. It can be pruned into a shrub or a hedge for screening, garden delineation, or used as one element of a windbreak. This plant takes water to establish, but once established, it requires moderate to low irrigation.

The Smoketree is most widely used as a specimen tree, with its attractive "smoke-like" inflorescences appearing in early to late summer. As clusters of tiny blooms fade away in the late spring, this plant shoots out hairy-like filaments, producing an attractive "smoky" billowing plume. Selections include varieties with green or purple foliage, changing to shades of orange, red, or purple in autumn. It has a rounded form, growing approximately 10 to 12 feet high and wide, but sometimes as tall as 20 feet. The Smoketree is very easy to grow and drought tolerant as well. It prefers well drained or dry soil conditions and full sun but can also tolerate partial shade conditions. A single tree can act as a focal point or feature in the garden; when planted in groups of three or more, and can make a very vibrant display as a hedge or colorful backdrop for your landscape.

Purpleleaf Plum—a very nice accent tree for the landscape or garden, because of their deep purple-colored leaves. Not many other trees have such colorful leaves in the summer months. Use them as a contrast or accent plant. Green trees or a light colored home in the background and a Purpleleaf Plum in the foreground can really liven-up the Southwestern landscape. Purpleleaf Plums are small trees, growing to only 15 or 25 feet high. Requiring full sun for the deep purple color, and moderate to light water, once established. PROBLEMS: Borers LOVE this tree, so a regular schedule of spraying is recommended. Always remove the green suckers or water spouts that come up from the base of the tree. In addition, they may be a ‘pricey’ little tree compared to other choices.

Vitex or Chaste trees are very nice additions to the desert landscape. They are a small tree, usually under 20 feet in height and can be found with single or multi-trunks. Very heat and drought tolerant, this tree is well suited to the desert Southwest and looks good in a desert landscape. Fragrant flowers withspikes grace the tree from mid to late summer, followed by clusters of small hard berries. Berries remain on the tree throughout the winter and fall to the ground the following year. Full sun and low water requirements make the Vitex tree a good choice for the Southwestern garden.
**EVERGREENS**

*As Ornamentals and Windbreaks*

NOTE: Pay ATTENTION to your evergreens, even those more adapted to our region...REMEMBER: Most problems with evergreens, and MANY of our established shade trees, occur when the tree becomes stressed because of long-term, inadequate water (due to drought conditions, poor care—or BOTH) and poor soils (a very common problem with our alkaline soils). This makes our trees more susceptible to insects and other diseases, resulting in sickly trees and eventual death. Don’t forget to WATER your evergreens properly!

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**Afghan Pine**—A very handsome, hearty and fast growing pine of Kelly green color. This pine can grow up to 3 feet a year (when young) reaching 30 feet in height, 15 feet wide at the crown. It loves heat, grows well in alkaline soils and tolerates poor drainage. The Afghan pine prefers sun and has adequate water requirements. It is a well adapted pine that can survive and even thrive in droughty, limited water conditions. One of the best desert pines. GREAT choice for Guadalupe County landscapes!!!

**Arborvitae Trees**

**Arborvitae trees** do very well as windbreaks in the desert Southwest. **Arborvitae** have very few insect and disease problems, as long as they are not allowed to become stressed from lack of water. Stressed trees invite spider mite infestations. The trees require full sun and water usage is low to moderate. There are several different varieties and shapes and sizes vary widely. The American arborvitae is wide and cone shaped, while the Globe arborvitae is rounded and the Pyramidalis is thin and columnar. Most Arborvitae are fairly slow growers, but the Thuga Green Giant can grow 3 to 5 feet per year. As windbreaks go, Arborvitae are probably one of the **best selections** because of the density of the trees.

**Arizona Cypress**

The Arizona Cypress make wonderful windbreaks in NM landscapes, as they are evergreen and fast growers, up to three feet per year. These trees require moderate water, once established, and full sun. They can get 50 to 60 feet high and they are cold hardy down to -15 degrees, and very heat and drought tolerant. The Arizona Cypress grows in acidic, alkaline, drought tolerant, loamy, sandy, well drained, wide range soils. The trees have few disease problems, however if allowed to become stressed from lack of water, they can be attacked by spider mites. Lack of sufficient water in the winter and freezing temps can cause dieback or kill the tree.

**Austrian Black Pine**—The Austrian Black Pine is a Pyramidal form with evergreen needles. The tree bears pinecones. The tree has a low to moderate growth rate, depending on soil and precipitation conditions. Individuals are decorative in landscapes or groups of trees can be grown as a screen or windbreak. The Austrian pine is tolerant of urban conditions, but do really well in rural areas and large landscapes. It is a **beautiful pine tree**. The tree is heat tolerant and is highly adaptive to **windy conditions**. Once established, the Austrian Pine is a moderate to low water user. This is an **EXCELLENT** pine tree choice for Guadalupe County, being much more adaptive than Ponderosa Pines and even native Pinon Pines.
**Alligator Juniper**
A LARGE evergreen tree, pyramidal or round topped, attaining a height of 65 feet. The trunk is stout and short. An unusual feature for this juniper is the conspicuous square scales of the bark which resemble the scales of an alligator. The leaves are bluish green, resinous, and scale-like. It is heat and drought tolerant and will simply stop growing during drought conditions and remain dormant until moisture resumes. Alligator junipers can live to be **500 years old**, with trunks more than 20 feet in diameter. The male plants produce ½-inch cones and the female plants produce ½-inch whitish blue berries containing two-to-six seeds. This Juniper variety grows well in arid intermountain zones, on dry, rocky slopes or in valleys and flats with sandy soils, on limestone, volcanic deposits or other types of rock. A very interesting juniper for Guadalupe county landscapes.

**Deodar Cedar** — An evergreen tree that can reach 70 feet high and 20 to 40 feet wide. Today it is a popular landscape specimen that provides year-round interest with its attractive pyramid shape and lovely green-silver color. Cedar Deodar trees thrive in a variety of moist, well-drained soils including: loam, sand and clay. It is also tolerant to drought and prefers a location that provides full sun. This tree is fairly fast growing, making it an excellent choice for a windbreak or for privacy on your property. It is a moderate water user.

**Pinon Pine**—Native evergreen pine with pyramidal shape as a young tree develops character with age. Pinon nuts are edible. Needs full sun and good drainage to thrive. Susceptible to "pine beetle" attack when stressed. The contorted trunks of some make it an excellent focal point. Native-dug pines should have a root base proportionate to the top growth. These trees should be burlapped and wire-wrapped to prevent damage during shipping and transplanting. Be sure to remove both burlap and wire during planting. Extremely common and excellent choice for southwest landscape, although the tree grows slowly and does better in cooler climates. These trees are moderate to low water users in Guadalupe County landscapes, though moderate is recommended. Word of advice: **NOT TO ALLOW THIS TREE TO BECOME TOO STRESSED!!**

**Rocky Mountain Juniper** — Scale-like foliage and stringy bark are characteristics of this tree, with smaller needles and upright growth. Bark is reddish to gray-brown and scaly. Small, blue berries are juicy and edible, a favorite of wildlife. The tree rarely exceeds 30 to 40 feet mature height. Rocky Mountain juniper grows in soils derived from basalt, limestone, and shale throughout its natural range, particularly in semiarid regions. Generally, the soils are poorly developed, stony, shallow, have low moisture-holding capacities, and are easily eroded, so that in many places little or no topsoil is present. This juniper is very pH adaptable, prefers full sun, well-drained soil, and has moderate water requirements. Quite drought tolerant.
Fruit Trees (Dual Purpose)

If you are looking for a fruit producer, on years when weather permits, that may serve a dual purpose of either ornamental or windbreak—consider these various varieties of fruit trees! Remember, our variability in temperature allows for ‘late’ spring frosts some years, so don’t count on a regular fruit crop!!

APPLES

Apple trees grow well in Guadalupe County, but, for successful fruiting, apple trees require numerous scheduled sprayings to control worms (codling moth) and other pests. Apples also need another apple cultivar or crabapple as pollinizer. Although apple trees flower later than most fruit species, late spring frost injury occurs frequently in all areas except southern New Mexico. The low-chill apple varieties are recommended for our area. 'Rome' is late-flowering. ‘Golden Delicious' flowers and fruits are slightly more frost-tolerant than 'Red Delicious' because it blooms less uniformly and has some late flowers. ‘Rome’ is not recommended for warmer areas of the state. 'Arkansas Black' (a late-maturing variety), 'Jonathan', and 'Winesap' develop good red color in southern New Mexico. Most commercial varieties are adapted to higher elevations. Semi-dwarf and dwarf trees begin to produce fruit at a younger age and are easier to manage than standard trees. Among the 20 varieties tested at NMSU Alcalde Research Station, 'Ginger Gold', 'Gala', 'Honeycrisp', 'Golden Delicious', 'Fuji', and 'Arkansas Black' are recommended for central and northern New Mexico. 'Mutsu' and 'Granny Smith' do better in the southern half of the state.

PEARS

Pears are long-lived attractive trees for NM landscapes and can serve as a dual purpose tree, both useful as an ornamental tree and fruit bearer. Selected varieties produce good fruit with few management problems. Good moisture drainage is an important soil requirement although pears are more tolerant of poorly drained soil than most other fruit trees. Sandy soils are best, but garden trees can be grown in clay or heavy loam soils. Just like apples, pears also need pollinizers and a spray program to manage wormy fruit. Pears flower after peaches and before apples. They are adapted to all areas, but production is better in southern New Mexico. There has been no formal pear variety trial in New Mexico, but scattered plantings indicated that 'Bartlett' always has some fruit even in years with severe late frosts. Other suggested varieties are 'D'Anjou', 'Bosc', 'Comice', and 'Seckel'. Pear varieties on dwarfing rootstocks are recommended over standard trees. Asian pears also do well in New Mexico. While there has not yet been a formal cultivar trial for Asian pears, the varieties '20th Century' (aka 'Nijisseiki'), 'Hosui', 'Kikusui', 'Kosui', 'Niitaka', 'Shinko', 'Shinseiki', 'Yakumo', and 'Yoinashi' have all been grown successfully in New Mexico backyards.

JUJUBE

Jujubes, also called Chinese dates, leaf out 4—6 weeks later than most tree fruit species. Jujubes are not frost-tolerant, but their growth habits allow them to avoid late frosts in most years. Jujubes rarely miss a crop even in years with severe late frosts. They also adapt well to the alkaline soils and hot, semiarid climate of New Mexico. Jujube are a narrow, columnar tree with a graceful, arching branch pattern and edible fruits. Native to arid portions of Asia and Africa, Jujube is well known for its sweet date-like fruit and suited for use here in windbreaks and as thorny barrier plantings. Drought tolerant. All varieties grow well and produce well in NM. So far, there are no pest or disease problems for jujubes across NM. As a precaution, jujube trees do have thorns and occasional suckers.
Apache Plume, *Fallugia paradoxa*. Found growing wild in the desert Southwest, the shrub gets around 3 or 4 feet high and is very drought and heat tolerant. Blooms in late spring to late summer with whitish colored flowers, followed by feathery plumes in shades of pink. **Apache Plume** requires full sun and low water, once established. Found growing native across Guadalupe County.

**Apache Plume**

Barberry, *Berberis thunbergii*, also known as Japanese Barberry or Dwarf Redleaf Barberry. Deciduous shrub, grows about 2 to 3 feet high, but can be kept very low with occasional pruning. **Watch out for the thorns!** Requires full sun to partial shade, deep purple color is best in full sun. Flowers are yellow, but inconspicuous and bloom time is mid to early summer. Great accent shrub when planted near green plants or in light colored rock. White rock and purple **Barberry** make a striking combination.

**Barberry**

Bird of Paradise

There are two varieties of **Bird of Paradise** commonly grown in the desert Southwest, the **Desert or Yellow Bird of Paradise**, *Caesalpinia gilliesii* and the **Red Bird of Paradise**, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*. Both are deciduous and do very well in our desert climate, but the Desert variety tends to do better since it is more drought and heat tolerant. In addition, the Red variety will usually freeze to the ground in the winter, coming back from the roots in the spring. Water requirements are low. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to both varieties. The **Desert Bird of Paradise** can get 6 to 8 feet high and flowers from mid spring through early fall. Blooms are bright yellow with orange/red stamens. Requires full sun. The Red Bird of Paradise, Dwarf Poinciana, Peacock Flower or Pride of Barbados can get 4 to 8 feet high and blooms from late summer to early fall. **NOTE:** **Seeds of both varieties are poisonous if ingested.**

**Bird of Paradise**

Butterfly bush, *Buddleja*, is a deciduous shrub that does very well in the desert Southwest. The plant can get 6 to 8 feet high and 3 to 5 feet wide. Blooms June - September. Birds, bees and especially butterflies are attracted to the fragrant, showy flowers. Flower color varies between varieties from whites and pinks to deep purples. Full sun and moderate water requirements. The **Butterfly Bush** can get quite large and take over a small yard if not pruned back each year.

**Butterfly Bush**

Shrubs for Guadalupe County

Successful ornamental shrubs and bushes grow in landscapes according to soil conditions and watering schedules. Many ornamental Xeriscape plants that require less water once established, do well in Guadalupe County. The following are a few suggested varieties for homeowners, and what they look like...
Boxleaf Euonymus, *Euonymus japonicus*, is a great little evergreen plant for hedges or low borders. Very dense plant, small leaves with serrated edges. Grows about two feet high, but can be kept even smaller. Requires full sun or partial shade and water requirements are moderate, requiring more than xeri-scape labeled shrubs. **Boxleaf** looks great in traditional landscapes when shaped into forms or low hedges, perfect for that English garden look.

New Mexico Privet, *Forestiera neomexicana*, is a deciduous, native shrub or small tree. Grows 12 to 18 feet high, by 12 feet wide. Usually multi-trunked, with whitish bark. Foliage turns a bright yellow in the fall. Trees are either male or female, with the female trees producing masses of purple-black berries that are readily eaten by birds. Full sun, heat, drought and cold tolerant. Low water usage after becoming established. **New Mexico Privet** is a great choice for the desert Southwest landscape or xeri-scape.

Salvia, Cherry Sage or Autumn Sage, *Salvia greggii*, is a small ornamental, flowering shrub, growing 2 to 3 feet high. Leaves are aromatic, with a hint of mint. Showy flowers cover the plant from spring to frost and can be red, pink, purple, orange, or white and the hummingbirds love them. Drought and heat tolerant plant that is disease and insect free. **Cherry Sage** is a great flowering plant for Xeriscapes and the desert Southwest!

Pyracantha or Firethorn is a fast growing evergreen shrub that does very well in the desert Southwest. There are spreading and upright varieties, both require regular pruning or their growth will get out-of-hand. The photo here is a pyracantha with about three or four weeks of new growth. **Pyracantha** requires full sun and low watering, once established. The plant blooms in the spring and flowers are small and white, followed by masses of red or orange berries, depending on the variety. These berries are very attractive to birds, fox and other wildlife.
**Spanish Broom, *Spartium junceum*,** is a large evergreen shrub and a moderate grower, 6 to 10 feet in height. Fragrant, bright yellow flowers are followed by three inch long seed pods, requires full sun and low watering, once established. **Spanish Broom** is not very cold hardy and usually freezes back to ground level, coming back from the roots in the spring. Can be a good plant for the desert Southwest garden, but it does have some issues. There is a fussy, brownish caterpillar, *Uresiphita reversalis*, that absolutely loves this plant and it will strip the stems, leaving brown sticks in a very short period of time. All parts of the plant are poisonous. This is a lovely, lovely plant in a Guadalupe County landscape.

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**Sumac or Skunk Bush**

**Skunk Bush, *Rhus trilobata*,** has many common names, Skunkbrush, Stinking Sumac, Polecat Bush, Quailbush, Squawbush, Three-leaved Sumac and a few others. **Skunk Bush** grows wild in the desert Southwest arroyos, a very heat and drought tolerant plant. Recommended for the desert Southwest garden, deciduous, moderate grower, 6 to 8 feet in height. Yellowish to whitish flowers are borne in early summer, followed by masses of red berries, birds really love them. Native Americans used the fruit in foods, beverages and medicines. The plant requires full sun to part shade and low to moderate water usage. Flowering best in full sun. Showy flowers can be white, pink, purple or violet and bloom time usually starts in mid-summer with several months of periodic flowering. Often flowers after summer rains, which is why one of it's common names is barometer bush. Attracts butterflies and bees. **Texas Purple Sage** is a heat, drought and cold tolerant plant, great for desert Southwest landscapes. Very low maintenance plant.

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**Texas Purple Sage, Purple sage,**

*Leucophyllum frutescens, Purple Sage* is a great shrub for the desert Southwest landscape and garden, usually only gets 2-5 feet high and 4-6 feet wide. The shrub is an evergreen, retaining it's small gray leaves through-out the winter. A moderate grower, requiring full sun to part shade and low to moderate water usage. Flowering best in full sun. Showy flowers can be white, pink, purple or violet and bloom time usually starts in mid-summer with several months of periodic flowering. Often flowers after summer rains, which is why one of it's common names is barometer bush. Attracts butterflies and bees. **Texas Purple Sage** is a heat, drought and cold tolerant plant, great for desert Southwest landscapes. Very low maintenance plant.
Resources—Publications, Websites, Nursery’s and Professional contacts
(list of resources used for compiling the Recommended Trees & Shrubs for Guadalupe County guide)

PUBLICATIONS
NMSU Extension Horticulture Publications Listing  http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/#ornamentals
  Establishing Fruit and Shade Trees, NMSU Circular H-420
  Fruits and Nuts for Orchard, NMSU Circular H-310
  Selecting Ornamental Trees for New Mexico, NMSU Circular H-328
  Shade Trees for New Mexico, NMSU Circular H-462

Trees Adapted to Roswell and Southeastern NM  
  http://chavesextension.nmsu.edu/documents

USDA Plants Database  

New Mexico State Forestry, Las Vegas District Office
  Tree/Shrub Lists:
    Drought, Heat, Cold, Species
    Draft for Tree Species

BOOKS
Trees for Architecture and Landscape, Zion, Robert L (various pages); copyright 1995  
  https://books.google.com/books

NURSERY RESOURCES:
The Hilltop, Landscape Architects and Contractors  
Sun Gardens, 2016 www.sungardensinc.com  

PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS:
Joran Viers, City Forester, Albuquerque, NM
Curtis Smith, Extension Horticulture Specialist, Retired, NMSU Cooperative Extension Service