

Frame Your Home With Majestic Trees

By Joe Covington

Most of the beautiful homes you'll see are framed with trees. Trees are the back bone of your landscape, and should be the first things planted. Before selecting your shade trees, however, it's best to know which are the most desirable for our area, as well as their size at maturity. You don't want to end up with the wrong tree in the wrong place.

Cedar Elms are great open canopy trees with deep root growth that can be placed close to structures. **Chinese Pistache** trees have been extensively tested and awarded a spot on Texas A&M's Texas Superstar list for their disease resistance and tolerance to our hot dry summers. This tree offers beautiful fall color and provides a large wide canopy for shade; therefore it should be planted farther away from a structure.

Shantung Maples have also earned the Texas Superstar designation. It has spectacular fall color with variations of golden-orange, plus the new young star-shaped leaves have a reddish hue. Its mature size (25'T x 20'W) makes it a great shade tree choice for smaller residential lots. **Big Tooth Maples**, native to the canyons of Lost Maples State Park, are some of the most attractive and interesting trees in Texas and one of the oldest hardwood trees alive. They are drought tolerant, adaptable to our alkaline soil, and have stunning red and yellow fall color.

Shumard Red Oaks and **Pecans** can be planted fairly close to the house since they have deep root systems that don't interfere with foundations, and they grow tall so their canopies can tower over the roof to shade the entire house. **Live Oaks** can also be planted close, but their canopies tend to be wider, so they may need more distance and possibly some pruning.

Other tree varieties are available, but these are some of the "Cadillacs!" Choose wisely and frame your home with trees that will ensure a beautiful landscape and outstanding curb appeal for many years to come!

Joe Covington is the owner of Covington's Nursery & Landscape Co. at 5518 President George Bush Hwy @ SH66 in Rowlett.

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