

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
Tip of the Week

Small Native Trees for Color and Fragrance
by Mary Lew Quesinberry

Native trees to consider for your garden:

Youpan Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) can be the backbone of your garden. It is available as a small tree or a shrub. As a small tree it has weeping and upright varieties. The female plant has a beautiful fall and winter display of red berries loved by wildlife. This tree is drought tolerant and trouble free and evergreen. Texas Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*) This small, airy tree has tiny white blooms and a very sweet fragrance. It is extremely drought tolerant. Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) This very slow grower is worth the wait with beautiful purple blooms and wonderful grape fragrance. It is bothered by "the worm" in spring which is easily controlled by soapy water. This small tree grows wild in the Lake Belton area. Texas Persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) This small tree has beautiful exfoliating bark. It loves the thin rocky soil in west Bell County. It blooms in spring and produces fruit loved by wildlife. Mexican Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) This tree is one of the first to bloom after a long dreary winter. Its beautiful pink blooms give you hope that spring is coming. Retama (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) I love the green trunk and the airy foliage of this tree. It does have thorns so you may want to plant it in the background. It has pretty yellow blooms. Ananacho Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia congesta*) This beautiful small tree has hoof-shaped leaves and white orchid-like blooms that will fill your entire property with fragrance. Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) This graceful tree is drought tolerant with purple or white blooms. It is beautiful planted singly or in a group on a berm. Goldenball Leadtree (*Leucaena retusa*) This tree has airy foliage and globe-shaped, fragrant blooms. It is trouble free and a great addition to your garden.

in the photos: Goldenball Leadtree has 1" globe-shaped, fragrant blooms and airy foliage. Desert Willow has beautiful blooms from spring to fall. Both are drought tolerant and trouble free.

