

Fall/ Winter Tree and Shrub Plant List and Photos



Excerpted from the 11.6.19 Jardineros de Placitas Presentation
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Sandoval County Master Gardener

Fall is an Important Time for Tree Care



- Transition Time Between the Growing Season and Winter dormancy
- Trees Harden Themselves off to the Onslaught of Winter Freezing and Snow

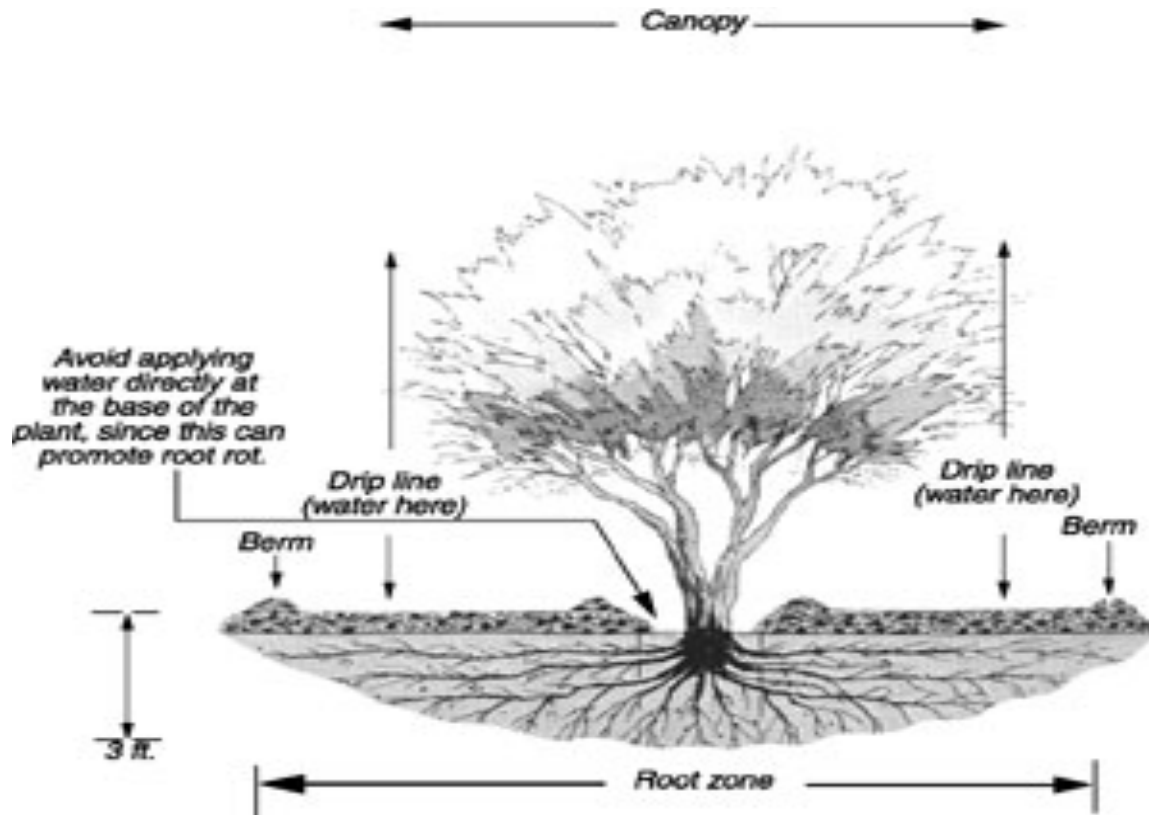
Help Established Trees and Shrubs in Their Fall Transition!

- By Following these “Do-Nots”
 - Do Not Water (*as much*)
 - Do Not Prune (*except dead wood*)
 - Do Not Fertilize

Do Not Water (*as much*) in the Fall

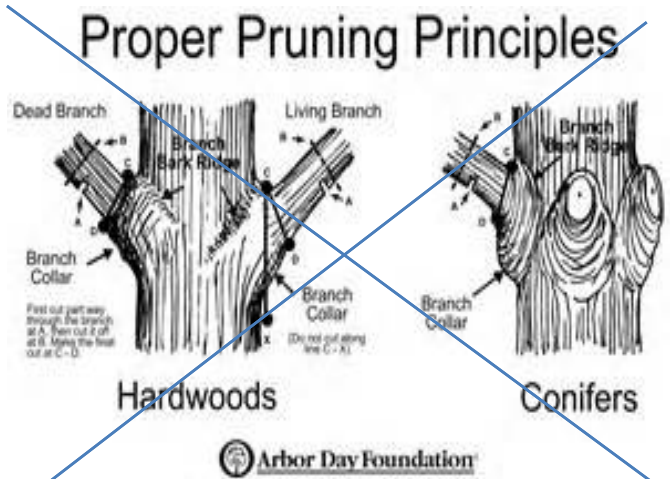
- After Mid-September Water Should be Cut in Half
 - Dependent on Seasonal Weather Variations
 - We have been having a mild early falls during the past three years with hard freezes occurring on average mid-November
 - 2019 September was hot in the beginning - warm
 - 2019 Mid and Late October Hard Freezes
 - Dependent on Elevation and Plant Placement in the Landscape
 - At Higher Elevations in Placitas (*after Labor Day cut water in half*)
 - Low spots that collect evening cold air

Always Water Trees and Shrubs at the Drip Line



- Established Trees at this time of Fall need to be watered deeply 2'- 3' every 3 -4 weeks
 - Water Shrubs to soak the soil at least 1' down

Do Not Prune Trees and Shrubs in the Fall!



- *Except for Dead Wood Removal*

- Why is Pruning Discouraged in the Fall???
 - Pruning of Live Tissue Stimulates Replacement Tissue
 - Green Growth in the Fall is Vulnerable to Winter Die Back – resulting in tree injury
 - Trees' Natural Wound Healing Defenses are “Quiescent” in the Fall and Return in January
 - Leave Pruning until January or Later
 - Prune Fruit Trees prior to Bud Break in late winter/ early spring

Do Not Fertilize Trees and Shrubs in the Fall!

- Trees Need Little in the way of fertilizing
- Fall Fertilization can stimulate a tree at the time it needs to cut back
- Replenish Compost (first layer in touch with soil) and **Mulch** for Winter Insulation Instead!



YES! Do Plant Trees and Shrubs in the Fall

- Fall is the Best Time to Plant Many Trees and Shrubs
 - Cooler Temperatures and shorter days allow the tree to get established under less harsh conditions
 - Roots Continue to Grow in the Winter, but at a slower rate
 - By Spring your Tree is pretty well established



Remove Tree from Container and Inspect

- Observe if Major Roots are Circling the Root Ball
- Take Back to Nursery if Badly Circling – Can Grow to Girdling Roots Years Later
- “Girdling Roots” is One of the Top Causes of Tree Failure (Decline and Death)
- If Proportion of Circling Roots Few – Splice Larger Tree Roots



Not Acceptable



Splice or Remove Larger Root

Splicing and Shaving of Contained Roots in Preparation for Planting



Splicing of Roots with Knife or Trowel



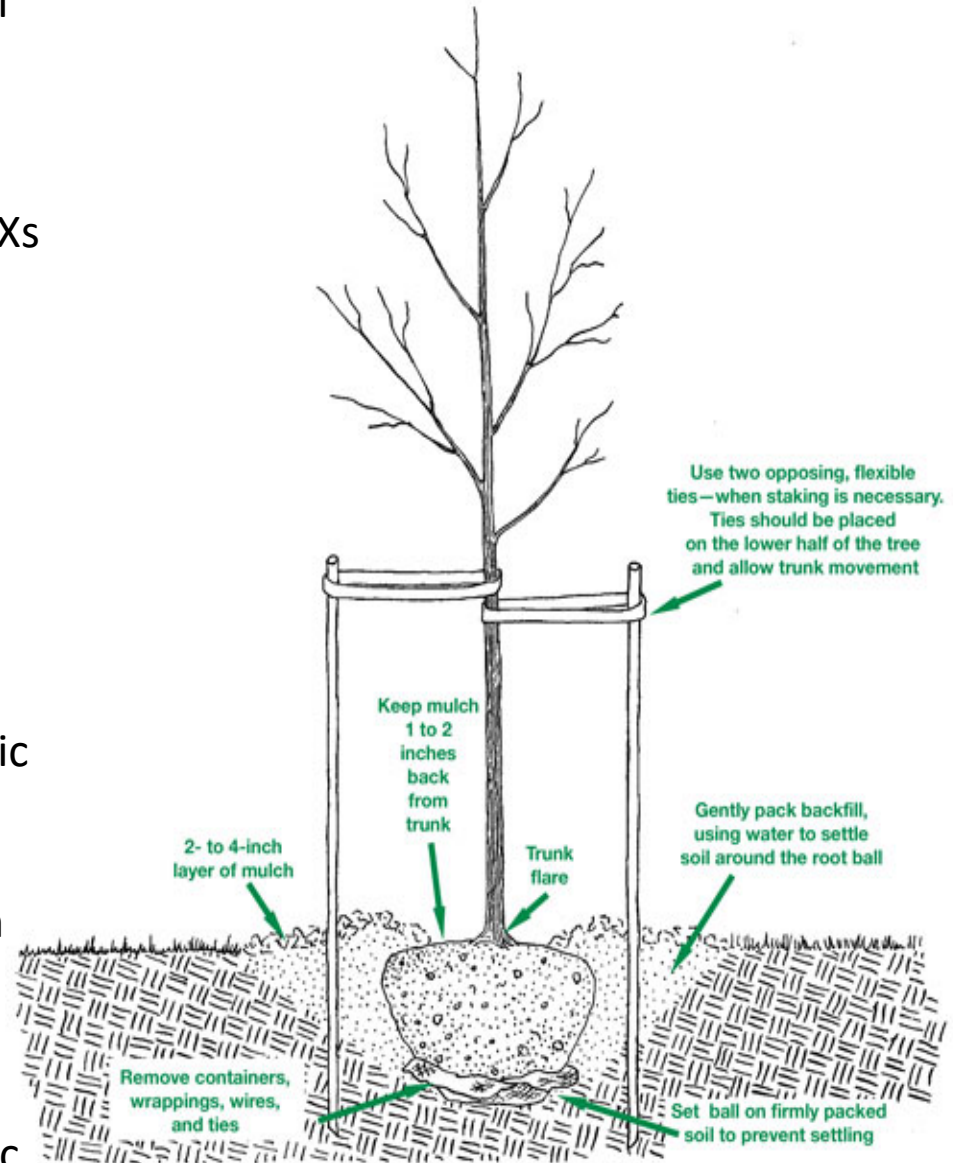
Shovel Shaving of the Root Ball



Root Balls Before and After Shaving

Good Tree and Shrub Planting Practices

- Dig a Hole No Deeper than the Bottom of the Potted Root Ball to the Top of Trunk Flare
- Diameter of the Hole Should Ideally be 3Xs the Diameter of Root Ball or Cylinder
- Trunk Flare Should be at the Soil Line or Slightly Above
- Back Fill Hole with Native Soil – Small Proportion or No Soil Amendments
- If Necessary Stake Loosely with Soft Fabric for No More than a Year or Two
- Apply 2-4" of Organic Compost and then 2- 4" Organic Mulch in the Planted Area Avoiding the Trunk
- Avoid Putting Down Weed Cloth or Plastic



Good Planting Practices



Dwarf Blue Arizona Cyprus Trees

- Stakes kept on trees for two growing seasons
- Fully grown 12 – 15'
- Heat and Draught Tolerant



Late October Plantings

Multi-trunk spring flowering
crab apple

- Stag Horn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) spreading tall multi trunk flowering shrub with mahogany seed heads that persist in the winter & velvety twigs that resemble deer horns (good for naturalizing)

Fall Watering of Newly Planted Trees

- Water Deeply and More Frequently
 - Every Day for First Week
 - 3 - 4 X's/ for Second Week
 - Taper off to 2 X's/ Week for Week 3 & 4.
 - 1 X/ Week the Following Month
 - Every 2 Weeks Thereafter

Water deeply at root ball interface and beyond the berm to tease the feeding roots to grow



Fall/ Winter Landscape Assessment

- Working in Your Garden in the Fall -Winter is a perfect time to assess your need for four season gardening
- Does your garden appear lackluster at this time?
- This is the transition time that plants prepare to sleep.
- Non-evergreen plants can be selected to provide textural, color, and sculptural interest
- Most gardens are planted for spring/ summer interest
- Good time to note fall or winter interest plants

Prepare for the Early Spring – Plant Bulbs Now in Late Fall

- Daffodil (rabbit resistant)
- Tulip
- Crocus
- Hyacinth
 - Bulbs prefer cool soil.
 - Plant them anytime after the first frost and before the ground freezes



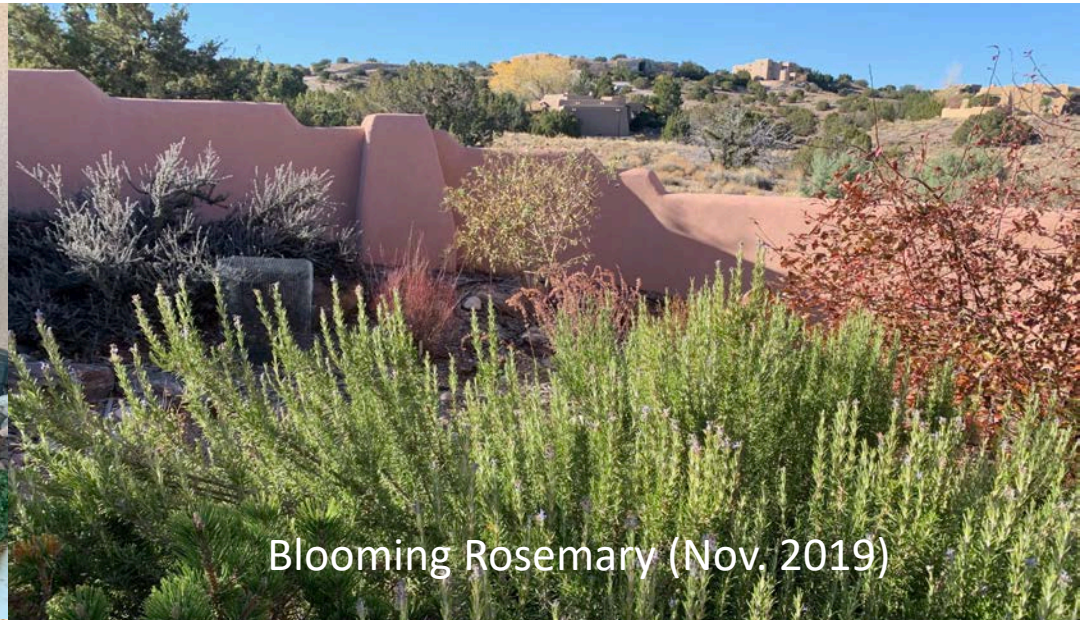
Drought Tolerant Plants with Fall/Winter Interest

- **Pyrocantha** (Rosaceae family) – bring orange –red berries in the fall and persisting through the winter
- **Juniper ground cover** – non pollinating versions provide evergreen color and protection for birds
- **Boxwood** (Buxaceae family) – evergreen
- **Hummingbird Trumpet** (*Zauschneria epilobium*) (later summer to early fall bloomer)
- **Sumac** (*genus Rhus*)(early – mid fall red leaf color, seed head and bark interest, spreads through suckering)
- **Holly** – attractive deep evergreen leaves and red berries
- **Sacred Bamboo** (*Nandina domestica*) - red berries in fall and winter; can be evergreen in a sunny sheltered area)
- **Russian Hawthorne** – , late spring bloom, late summer to fall berries, yellow leaf color, and exfoliating yellow bark in the winter
- **Washington Hawthorne**
- **Western Sand Cherry**
- **Texas Sage** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) – summer - fall blooms (up until a hard frost)
- **Cherry or Autumn Sages** (*Salvia greggii*)
- **Rosemary** (*Salvia rosmarinus*)
- **Barberry** (*Barbaris*) – *deciduous and evergreen varieties*

Fall and Winter Interest Shrubs



Nandina/ Heavenly Bamboo
(Nov. 2019)



Blooming Rosemary (Nov. 2019)

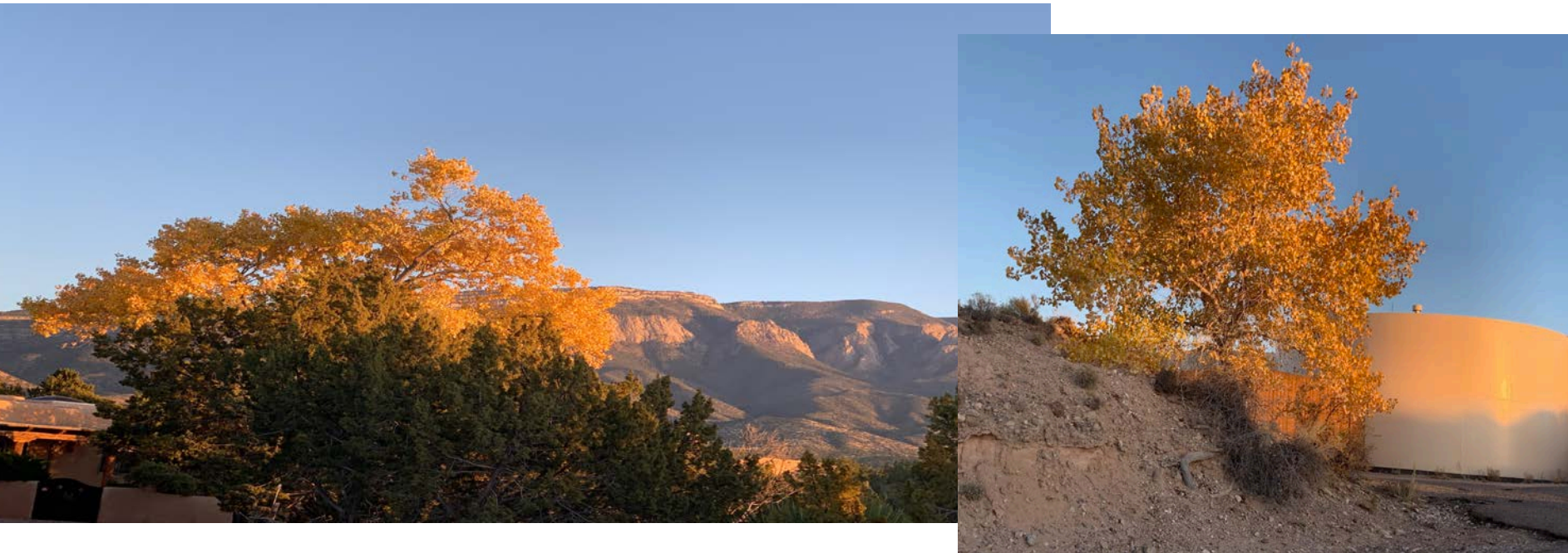


Dwarf Pyrocantha (Nov. 2019)



Gro - Low Sumac: (*Rhus aromatica*). 2' H ; 5-7'

Fall Tree Choices for Placitas (*Populus Species*)



Cottonwoods and Aspens - prized by Southwestern people since ancient times.

Both grow best in colonies.

- **Aspens:** prefer high elevations with deep snow pack & streams fed by melted snow to fuel rapid growth. Aspens transplant best in the fall & do best in sheltered spots in elevations above 6000 ft. Need moist, heavily composted, & mulched soils.
- **Cottonwoods** prefer moist niches in the desert ecosystems, but are adapted to periodic draughts. They can be transplanted at any time.
 - Valley Cottonwood native species not suitable for some Placitas home landscapes due to water and soil space. Choose varieties that need less water.

Fall Tree Choices for Placitas (*Populus Species*)



- High Elevation Tree 7000 – 9000 feet
- Plant in Clumps
- 2 Inches of Organic Compost next soil in tree area
- Layer 2-3” Organic Mulch on top of compost
- Water Regularly and Deeply

Fall Tree Choices for Placitas

Elevation: Up to 7000 feet.

Zone: USDA: 6-10

Frost Tolerance: Hardy to -10°F
(-23°C)

Heat Tolerance: Excellent

Arizona Ash



Fall Pine Tree Choices for Placitas



Pinyon Pine



Austrian Pine



Afghan Pine

Hardy and Drought Tolerant Native Pines

Pinyon Pine: Zones 4 through 8 (most hardy and heat tolerant)

Southwestern White Pine: Zone 3 through 7

Bristlecone Pine: Zone 2 through 7

Hardy and Drought Tolerant Adapted Pines

Afghan Pine: Zones 6a - 9b hardiness (fast growth)

Austrian Pines: Zones 3 – 7 (moderate)

Arizona Blue Cypress: Zones 6- 9 (moderate growth)

Fall Pine Tree Choices for Placitas



Austrian, Native Juniper, Pinyon,
Afghan Pines Nov. 2019

Fall Tree Choices for Placitas



New Mexico Olive

Forestiera neomexicana

Container Grown Trees Can be transplanted anytime

Thrives in all soils; resistant to disease and insects

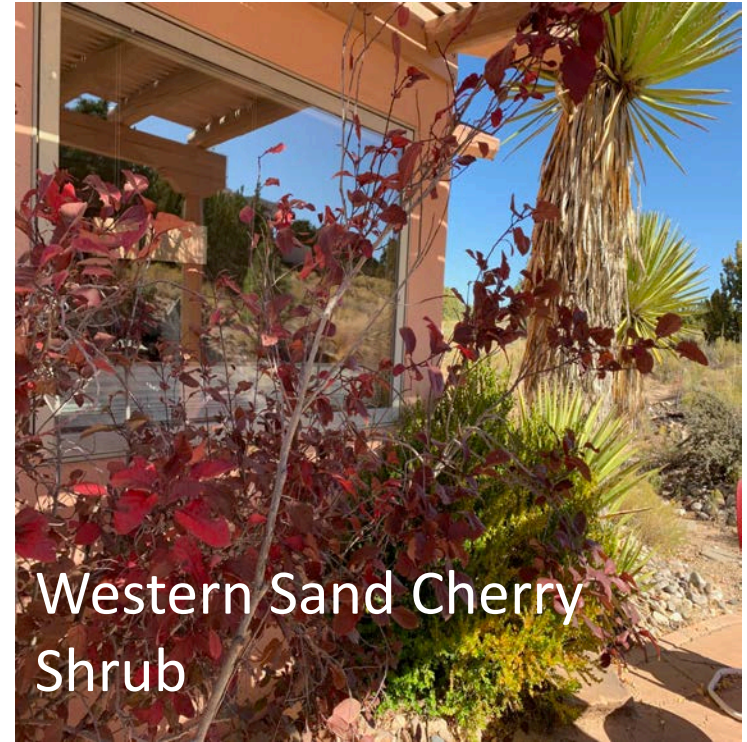
Multi-trunk growth makes for a sculptural focal point in small courtyards
(remove all the twiggy growth in early summer)

Male and Female Varieties – both have flowers - naturalizes in open spaces.

Other Fall Tree and Shrub Choices for Placitas



Russian Hawthorne (Late Summer to Fall)
Zone 4 -7 25' H x 15' Spread at Maturity



Western Sand Cherry
Shrub

Zone: 3- 7 Ave. 6-8' H x 8- 10'
Spread (Varies by Species)



Chinese
Pistache

Chinese Pistache Fall Color
Zone 6 – 8 30'H x 20' Spread at Maturity

Fall Oak Tree Choices for Placitas



Texas Red Oak

Texaswatershed.org

Hardiness zones: 5 - 8

Deciduous Oaks are best planted in the fall – early spring

Adapted Oak Varieties:

Clump Forming Gamble (*Quercus Gambelii*) Zones 4 – 7

Texas Red Oak (*Q. texana*) Zones 5 – 8 (red fall foliage)



Gamble Oak Shrub

Elevation: 5,000 to 8,000 feet.

Height: Shrub grows 15 to 30 feet tall, tree up to 60 feet

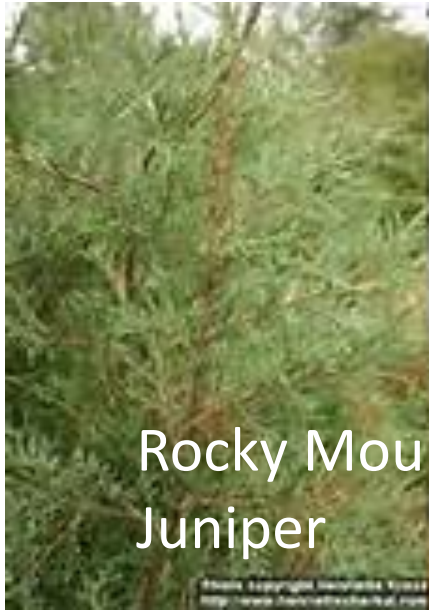
Diameter: 5 to 10 inches



Gamble Oak Leaves

Note: Evergreen Oaks, such as Escarpment Oaks are best planted in the spring - summer

Fall Tree Choices – Choose most Draught Tolerant for Placitas



Rocky Mountain
Juniper



Colorado
Blue Spruce

Plant Family:

Cupressaceae

USDA Hardiness Zones:

4 to 9

Mature Size:

30-40' tall x 10-15' wide

Water Needs: 9" minimum

Height: 70 to 100 feet tall, about 25 ft. wide.

Elevation: Occurs naturally at 7,000 to 10,000 ft. in Arizona and New Mexico.

Soils: Rich, moist soils

Water Needs: 20" precipitation equivalent; must have supplemental water in zones of lower precipitation.

USDA Hardiness Zones: 2 to 7

Fall Tree Choices – Choose the most Draught Tolerant for Placitas. Consider watering needs.



Blue Arizona Cypress

Elevation: Up to 7,000 feet

Zones: USDA 5b -11 (good heat tolerance)

Water Needs: 10 – 12” annually



Ponderosa Pine - Pine Cone
Close-up and Needles

Elevation: Up to 9,000 feet

Zones: USDA 3-7

Water Needs: 12 – 24” Annually

Sandoval County Master Gardeners

www.sandovalmastergardeners.org

- Sponsored by the County Extension Office
- Sandoval County Administration Building,
1500 Idalia RD, Bernalillo, NM 87004
- Offering Public Garden Education and One-on-One Consultation to Sandoval County Residents
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