NICE!™
Natives Instead of Common Exotics

A Public Education and Nursery Partnership Program of the Guadalupe County and Lindheimer Chapters of The Native Plant Society of Texas

Presenters: John Siemssen, Lindheimer Chapter and Deedy Wright, Guadalupe County Chapter

Saturday, October 6, 2012
Precursor Materials

• Both chapters had prior outreach programs:
  – Guadalupe County Chapter
    • Care Cards for Plant Sales
  – Lindheimer Chapter
    • Plant of the Month presented at chapter meetings
Cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*)
Cedar elm is a large, oval-rounded tree growing 50-70 ft. high and 40-60 ft. wide. Dark green leaves are small and rough-textured. Fall foliage is yellow. Tree has the smallest leaves of any native elm. No need to rake the small leaves—they compost nicely. Young trees have corky wings on their branches. Cedar elm is a reasonably fast-growing tree.

*Planting Sites:* Cedar elm grows in moist to dry alkaline, sandy, or clay soils. Moderate water demands. Withstands drought and heavy, infertile soils.

*Planting Instructions:* Dig hole 2 to 3 time larger than, but the same depth as, the nursery container. Carefully remove plant from container and gently loosen any compacted soil around the root ball. Plant at the same depth as the soil in the container. Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch.

*Watering Instructions:* If planting in spring, water well after planting, using root stimulator according to directions. For at least 3 months, water deeply every 7-10 days to promote deep roots that will withstand drought. May skip a watering after a rainfall of ½” to 1”. Once established, cedar elm is very drought-tolerant.

*Comments:* The Mourning Cloak and Question Mark butterflies use cedar elm for larval food. Birds eat the seeds use the tree for cover and nesting sites. Small mammals also eat the seeds. Susceptible to Dutch elm disease. Pollen is known to cause allergic reactions.
Cedar Elm is the most widespread Elm in Texas. It is tolerant of various conditions and soils, and can be found in East Texas, the Rio Grande Valley and west to the Pecos River. It is drought tolerant but also can take short periods of standing water. In deep soils, with adequate moisture, it can become a tall tree to 60' with a flat crown, but in other conditions its shape is more variable. Although Cedar Elms are everywhere in the Valley, they are deciduous in the rest of the state, turniing vivid shades of yellow and gold in the fall.

Cedar Elms have the smallest leaves of any Elm in the state. They have a rough texture, and the Latin name, crassifolia, means 'thick leaf'. It is the only native elm that blooms and sets fruit in the fall. Since the young branches can form corky, wing like projections similar to the Winged Elm of East Texas, the bloom time is a definitive distinguishing feature. Some people are allergic to the pollen.

Cedar Elms are attractive and relatively fast growing landscape trees. They transplant easily and are readily available in nurseries. They will need to be protected from deer. In fact, in the wild, deer predation is a cause of concern as most of the young seedlings are being eaten, resulting in few new replacement trees. Cedar Elm is also subject to Dutch Elm disease, which has decimated populations of American Elm in East Texas and across the US, but so far has not been a problem in our area.

Text by John Siemens. Photos by Sally and Andy Wasowski, Wildflower Center.
Development of the Guadalupe County / Lindheimer NICE!™ Program Materials
NICE!™ Program Materials
Introductory Information for Nurseries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>We do:</th>
<th>You do:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Develop recommendations for 4 Native Plants 4 x year.</td>
<td>• Suggest native plants for recommended lists.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provide free materials on planting and care. A NPSOT member will visit frequently to restock educational materials.</td>
<td>• Contact your wholesale growers and request increases in availability.</td>
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<td>• Provide staff training, if desired.</td>
<td>• Order native plants from your usual wholesalers.</td>
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<td>• Publicize the Native Plants through clubs, newspapers, radio and electronic media.</td>
<td>• Inform your staff of the NICE Native Plant program.</td>
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<td>• Promote participating nurseries.</td>
<td>• Display and distribute care and planting handouts.</td>
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<td>• Increase sales of native plants!</td>
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NICE!™ Program Materials

Posters

- Large - 4 Season
- Individual Quarterly
NICE!™ Program Materials

Signage

• Sized to fit standard holders

Cedar Elm

*Ulmus crassifolia*

Cedar Elm is an upright tree that is adapted to various soils and moisture levels. It will grow in rocky, sandy, clay and compacted soils, and can survive drought and standing water.

• **Use:** Specimen tree
• **Size:** 25’ - 50’ tall, 25’ - 30’ spread
• **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
• **Evergreen/Deciduous:** Deciduous
• **Seasonal Interest:** Leaves turn golden yellow in fall
• **Moisture:** Tolerates both drought and occasional flooding
• **Maintenance:** Prune for shape or to raise canopy
• **Wildlife:** Larval host; seeds feed birds
• **Deer Resistance:** Deer will browse; needs protection when young
• **Comments:** Priority plant due to deer browsing in native habitats

Photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski, Wildflower Center

Price

Recommended by your local chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas
NICE!™ Program Materials

Care Cards
Placed in 4-tiered plastic display stand

Cedar Elm

*Celtis occidentalis*

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*Comments*: The Mourning Cloak and Question Mark butterflies use cedar elm for larval food. Birds eat the seeds; use the tree for cover and nesting sites. Small mammals also eat the seeds. It is susceptible to Dutch elm disease. Pollen is known to cause allergic reactions.

*Planting and care instructions provided by the Guadalupe County and Llano Chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas.*
*Visit us at [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org)*
NICE!™ Program Materials
Publicity Programs

- Presentations and Articles
  - Local Radio Programs
  - Local Newspapers
  - Garden Clubs
  - Master Gardeners
  - Master Naturalists

- Posters
  - Extension offices
  - Libraries
  - Heritage Societies

- Other
  - Speakers Bureau
The Problem with Exotic Plants

- Indigestible to native insects that birds eat
- Use more water
- Need more fertilizers and fungicides
- More polluted run-off
- Can introduce harmful pests
- Can escape into natural areas
- Cost tax dollars to clear from public lands

The Solution is Native Plants

- Natives grow here naturally
- Host native birds, butterflies and wildlife
- Less expensive to maintain
- Use less water
- Can be more deer resistant
- Preserve our rich Texas botanical heritage.
- Are beautiful!
NICE!™ Program Materials
Alternatives to Common Exotics

- Notebook format
- Includes trees, shrubs and vines
- Illustrated Reference for Native Alternatives to Common Exotics

Example: Exotic – Mimosa
Native Alternatives –
- Desert Willow
- Texas Redbud
- Mexican Plum
- Retama
NICE!™ Program Materials

Thank you!

Questions?