

# NATIVE TREE ALTERNATIVES



There are many native trees that provide similar beauty and function to popular box store trees, while providing many more habitat and environmental benefits. Consider some of these great native species when shopping for trees! There are many other examples of beneficial native trees as alternatives, so explore your options before getting the first option at a nursery.

## Caddo Maple (instead of Red Maple)

Caddo Maple is a native sugar maple, originating from Caddo County in Oklahoma. This native maple is more tolerant of extreme heat and drought, while still providing a great fall foliage. It is so drought tolerant that it does not fare well in excessively irrigated areas. This is a great medium-sized tree, growing 20-50' tall and 25-35' wide.



## Cedar Elm (instead of Lacebark Elm)

Lacebark Elms are a highly popular tree, but are non-native and can break easily during ice storms. Cedar Elm is a great alternative, native to southern Oklahoma. It is one of the most disease-resistant elms, has a golden fall color, and looks very similar to a Lacebark Elm.

## Arizona Cypress (instead of Blue Atlas Cedar)

Native to the southwestern United States, Arizona Cypress is a drought-tolerant option for an evergreen tree. With a gray-blue foliage, these trees get 30-40' tall and 15-20' wide.



## Mexican Plum (instead of Bradford Pear)

Bradford Pears were incredibly popular for a period of time, but are highly invasive and poor-quality trees. If you like white blooms, Mexican Plum is a good native alternative. Plus, it has edible fruit, is better for wildlife, and is drought-tolerant.

## Honeylocust (instead of Chinese Pistache)

There are thornless cultivars such as 'skyline' or 'shademaster' that are a great native alternative to the Chinese Pistache. Chinese Pistache is a popular tree, but invasive and non-native. Honeylocust offers more wildlife benefit, while having comparable shape and aesthetic.



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