

# DIAMOND RIDGE HOA



## Approved Shade Trees

- Recommended Top 10 Shade Trees (Sections 1-10)
  - Additional Approved Shade Trees (Section 11)



## **DIAMOND RIDGE TREE POLICY**

Due to ongoing drought conditions, the Architectural Committee, with approval from the HOA Board, has adopted updated minimum tree requirements for the community. These guidelines are intended to preserve the community's appearance while reducing water usage.

1. Effective 3/1/2026, each front yard must include a minimum of one tree. All new trees planted to meet this requirement must be a shade tree with a minimum container size of 15 gallons and a minimum height of 8 feet. An exception to this rule applies when a previously approved tree by the Architectural Committee is dying or distressed. The tree may be replaced with the same species, provided it meets the size requirement noted above. Also note rule #6.
2. An approved list of drought-resistant trees is provided in the appendix. This list applies only to the required tree and does not restrict the planting of additional tree species or trees installed in backyards.
3. Fruit-bearing Olive trees are prohibited.
4. Palm tree fronds must be trimmed as needed to remove dead fronds.
5. Trees in the front yard cannot be removed without prior Architectural Committee approval except for emergencies (i.e. like a fallen tree, etc.).
6. Homes with existing previously approved and compliant palm trees or ocotillo plants are grandfathered and are not required to plant additional trees.
7. Artificial turf is permitted if it meets community standards as outlined in the Rules and Regulations and receives architectural approval prior to installation.



## **DIAMOND RIDGE TREE LIST (Effective March 2026)**



Review the detailed tree characteristics and planting schedules that follow before making your selection.

### **RECOMMENDED**

1. Chinese Pistache / Red Push Pistache Tree
2. Texas Live Oak Tree
3. "True Green" OR "Drake" Chinese Elm Tree
4. Tipu Tree
5. African Sumac Tree
6. Arizona Ash Tree
7. Willow Acacia Tree
8. Jacaranda Tree
9. Mastic Tree
10. Majestic Ash
11. Southern Chitalpa Tree

### **ALTERNATES**

12. Texas Ebony Tree
13. Mesquite Tree
14. Desert Fern Tree (i.e., Feather Tree, Lysiloma Tree)
15. Palo Verde Tree
16. Sweet Acacia Tree
17. Honey Mesquite Tree
18. Mexican Ebony Tree
19. Hong Kong Orchid Tree
20. Palo Blanco Tree
21. Chinese Elm Tree (*Different variety than "True Green" OR "Drake" Chinese Elm Tree*)
22. Purple Pony Tree
23. Female Carob Tree
24. Southern Magnolia Tree
25. Thundercloud Purple Leaf Plum Tree

# Table Of Contents

1	Chinese Pistache / Red Push Pistache .....	5
2	Texas Live Oak .....	5
3	True Green' and 'Drake' Chinese Elm .....	6
4	Tipu Tree .....	6
5	African Sumac .....	7
6	Arizona Ash Tree .....	7
7	Willow Acacia.....	8
8	Jacaranda Tree .....	8
9	Mastic Tree.....	9
10	Majestic Ash.....	9
11	Southern Chitalpa Tree .....	10
12	<b>Additional Approved Shade Trees</b> .....	11
12.1	<b>Texas Ebony</b> .....	11
12.2	<b>Mesquite</b> .....	11
12.3	<b>Desert Fern</b> (i.e., Feather Tree, Lysiloma Tree) .....	12
12.4	<b>Palo Verde Tree</b> .....	12
12.5	<b>Sweet Acacia</b> .....	12
12.6	<b>Honey Mesquite</b> .....	13
12.7	<b>Mexican Ebony</b> , (i.e., <i>Havardia mexicana</i> ) .....	13
12.8	<b>Hong Kong Orchid Tree</b> .....	14
12.9	<b>Palo Blanco Tree</b> .....	14
12.10	<b>Chinese Elm</b> (also called Evergreen Elm) .....	15
12.11	<b>Purple Pony Tree</b> (flowering plum family).....	15
12.12	<b>Female Carob Tree</b> .....	16
12.13	<b>Southern Magnolia Tree</b> .....	16
12.14	<b>Thundercloud Purple Leaf Plum Tree</b> .....	17

## 1 Chinese Pistache / Red Push Pistache (Deciduous)



Chinese or Red Push Pistache Tree

- Deciduous in winter, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant, very hardy.
  - Low Debris
  - Height: 30- 35 feet
  - Spread: 25-30 feet
- 
- Growth Rate: Slow initially 1<sup>st</sup> yr then 1-3 ft/Yr
  - Planting Season: Sept-Feb
  - Summer: Bright Green, Fall: Red/Orange/Yellow

## 2 Texas Live Oak (Semi-Evergreen)



Texas Live Oak Tree

- Semi-Evergreen, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant
- Moderate Debris
- Height: 30- 40 feet
- Spread: 30-40 feet
- Growth rate 1-3 ft/Yr initially then 6-12 inches/Yr when mature
- Planting Seasons: Aug-Nov
- Plant ≥10 ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations

### 3 True Green' and 'Drake' Chinese Elm (Semi-Evergreen)



'True Green' or 'Drake' Chinese Elm

- Semi-evergreen, Fast-growing 1-3 ft/Yr
- Full Sun, Tolerant to Drought, Heat & Wind
- Height: 30-50 feet
- Spread: 25-50 feet
- Moderately messy
- Plant at least 10' from sidewalks or foundations
- Planting Seasons:  
October-November OR February-March

### 4 Tipu Tree (Semi-Evergreen)



Tipu Tree

- Semi-Evergreen, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant
- Low Debris
- Height: 25- 50 feet
- Spread: 25-50 feet
- Growth rate 2-3 ft/Yr
- Planting Seasons: Best in Oct-Nov or alternately Feb-March
- Golden Yellow flowers spring, summer & fall
- Plant  $\geq$ 10 ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations

## 5 African Sumac (Evergreen)



### African Sumac Tree

- Evergreen, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant
- Moderate Debris, drops some leaves/flowers throughout year
- Height: 20-30 feet
- Spread: 20-30 feet
- Growth rate 2 ft/Yr
- Planting Season: Oct-March
- Golden Yellow green flowers in winter or early spring
- Plant  $\geq 10$  ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations

## 6 Arizona Ash Tree (Deciduous)



### Arizona Ash Tree

- Deciduous, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant
- Moderate to High Debris <sup>(Note 1\*)</sup>
- Height: 30-50 feet
- Spread: 25-45 feet
- Growth rate 2-3 ft/Yr
- Planting Season: Best in Oct-Nov or alternately Dec-Feb
- Yellow green flower clusters in early spring
- Plant  $\geq 10$  ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations

**NOTE 1:** “Bonita” & “Modesto” male Arizona Ash varieties produce much less debris.

## 7 Willow Acacia (Evergreen)



### Willow Acacia Tree

- Evergreen, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant
- Low Debris
- Height: 20-40 feet
- Spread: 15-20 feet
- Growth rate 2-5 ft/Yr
- Planting Season: Oct-March.
- Plant  $\geq 10$  ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations

## 8 Jacaranda Tree (Deciduous)



- Deciduous, Full Sun, Drought-tolerant when mature
- Moderate Debris, Drops some fern-like leaves & flowers
- Growth rate 3-5 ft/Yr



- Plant  $\geq 5$  ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations
- Height: 25- 40 feet
- Spread: 25-30 feet
- Planting Seasons:  
Best in Oct-Dec OR alternately Feb-Mar

## 9 Mastic Tree (Evergreen)



Mastic Tree

- Drought-Tolerant, Full Sun
- Evergreen, Very Slow growing
- Height: 15–25 feet
- Width: 20–30 feet
- Minimal Debris & Low Maintenance
- Planting Seasons:  
September–November OR March–May

## 10 Majestic Ash



Majestic Ash

- Drought-Tolerant, Full Sun
- Evergreen to Semi-Deciduous
- Low Debris
- Height: 30 to 50 feet
- Spread: 30 feet
- Growth Rate: 2-3 ft/yr
- Planting Season: March-May
- Plant at least 10 ft from sidewalks, walls or foundations

## 11 Southern Chitalpa Tree (Deciduous)



Southern Chitalpa Tree

- Drought-Tolerant, Full Sun
- Deciduous, Fast growing 1-2 ft/Yr
- Height: 25-40 feet
- Width: 25-40 feet
- Moderate Debris, Low Maintenance
- Flower Color: White & Pink, Blooms throughout summer

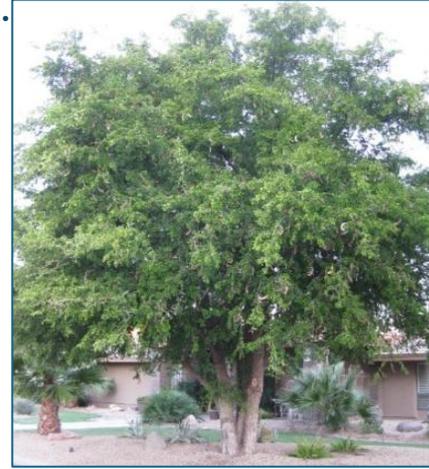


- Planting Seasons:  
March-May  
September-November

## 12 Additional Approved Shade Trees

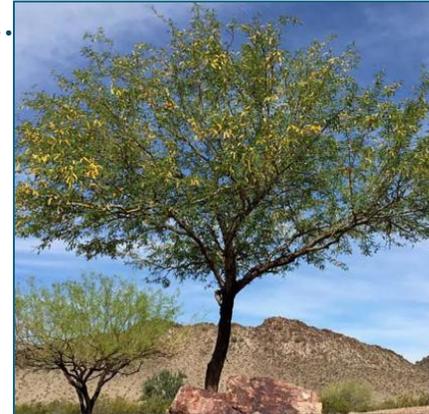
### 12.1 Texas Ebony .....

- High Debris, Drops Bean pods, fuzz balls & some leaves
- Evergreen, Full Sun, Drought-Tolerant
- Height: 15- 30 feet
- Spread: 15-30 feet
- Slow to Moderate growth rate
- Planting Seasons: March-May OR September-November



### 12.2 Mesquite .....

- High Debris. Drops Bean pods, fuzz balls & some leaves
- Semi-Evergreen, Full Sun, Drought-tolerant
- Height 25-30 ft.
- Spread 20-30 ft
- Moderate to Fast growth rate
- Planting Season: September-November



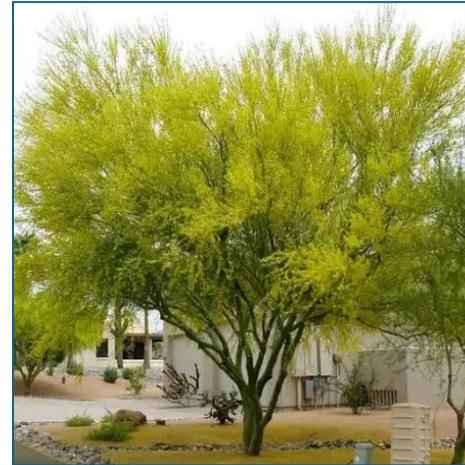
### 12.3 **Desert Fern** (i.e., Feather Tree, Lysiloma Tree) .....

- High Debris, Bean pods & white fuzz balls,
- Fast growth 2-3 ft/Yr
- Semi-Evergreen to Deciduous, Full Sun, Drought-tolerant
- Height 15–25 feet
- Spread 10-15 ft.
- Planting Seasons: Best in Sept-Nov OR alternately Jan-Feb



### 12.4 **Palo Verde Tree** .....

- High Debris, Sheds yellow flowers & Bean pods
- Deciduous, Full Sun, Drought-tolerant
- Fast growing 2-3 ft/Yr, Susceptible to wind damage
- Plant at least 10’ from sidewalks or foundations
- Height: 10 to 30 feet
- Spread: 10 to 40 feet
- Planting Seasons: Best in Sept-Nov OR alternately Jan-Feb



### 12.5 **Sweet Acacia** .....

- Deciduous, High Debris, Drops leaves. puffballs & Bean pods
- Evergreen, Fast-growing 2-3 ft/Yr
- Height: 20–25 feet
- Width: 20–25 feet
- Drought-tolerant, Full Sun
- Planting Seasons:  
Best in September-November OR January-March



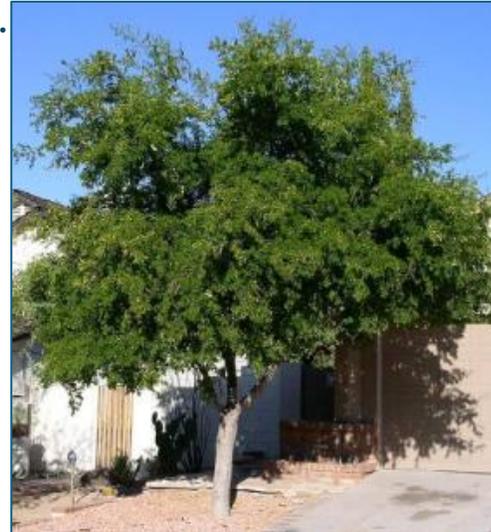
## 12.6 Honey Mesquite .....

- Deciduous, High Debris, drops catkins, Bean pods & leaves
- Drought-tolerant, Full Sun, Fast-growing 1-3 ft/Yr
- Plant at least 15' from sidewalks or foundations
- Height: 15–40 feet
- Width: 15–40 feet
- If single trunk is desired, it requires pruning when young to manage its shape
- Planting Seasons: Oct-Dec OR Feb-April



## 12.7 Mexican Ebony, (i.e., *Havardia mexicana*) .....

- Deciduous, High Debris, Drops leaves, puffballs & Bean pods
- Drought-tolerant, Full Sun
- Moderate-growth rate 1-2 ft/Yr
- Height: 20–30 feet
- Width: 15–20 feet
- Planting Seasons: Sept-Nov OR Feb-March



## 12.8 Hong Kong Orchid Tree .....

- Semi-Deciduous
- Moderate debris. Stays green year round but drops flowers & older leaves particularly around late Feb
- Drought-tolerant, Full Sun to partial shade
- Moderate-growth rate 1-2 ft/Yr
- Height: 20–40 feet
- Width: 20–25 feet
- Flowers: Orchid-like flowers that bloom in winter
- Planting Seasons:  
Best in Oct-Nov OR alternately Feb-March

**NOTE:** In ~Jan as they prepare for their major bloom they may look stressed, (i.e., yellow leaves, slight defoliation), but that is normal.



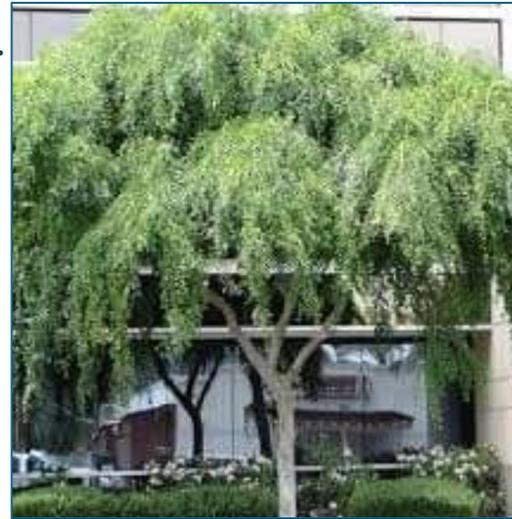
## 12.9 Palo Blanco Tree .....

- Deciduous, Slow to moderate growth rate ~1-2ft/Yr
- Moderate Debris, drops tiny flowers & decorative seed pods
- Drought-tolerant, Full Sun
- Height: 15–20 feet
- Width: 10–15 feet
- Planting Seasons:  
Best in Sept-Nov OR alternately Feb-March



## 12.10 Chinese Elm (also called Evergreen Elm) .....

- Fast-growing 3 ft/Yr, Semi-Evergreen to Deciduous
- Drought-tolerant, Full Sun
- Height: 40–60 feet
- Width: 30-50 feet
- Plant at least 10' from sidewalks or foundations
- High Debris, Shedding of seeds, leaves, and small twigs throughout the year but very popular in AZ.
- Planting Seasons:
  - Best in March-April OR alternately Sept-Nov
- Not to be confused with “True Green” or “Drake” Chinese Elm which has less debris.



## 12.11 Purple Pony Tree (flowering plum family).....

- Moderate growth 1ft/Yr
- Moderate Drought Tolerant, Full Sun
- Height: 10–15 feet
- Width: 10-15 feet
- Low Debris, Semi-Deciduous but retains its foliage year round.
- Flowers: Fragrant, pale or pink blossoms in spring.
- Non-Fruit bearing, less debris.
- Planting Seasons:
  - Best in Oct-Dec OR alternately March-May



## 12.12 Female Carob Tree .....

- Very Slow Growth
- Drought Tolerant, Full Sun
- Moderate Debris
- Evergreen, they do not shed all their leaves at once in a single season. Glossy, dark green leaves provide consistent foliage year round.
- Height: 30-50 feet
- Width: 30-50 feet
- Plant at least 10' from sidewalks or foundations
- Bears edible fruit after ~7-10 years.
- Planting Seasons:
  - Best in Sept-Nov OR alternately Dec-March



**NOTE:** **Male** Carob Trees have an unpleasant flower odor

## 12.13 Southern Magnolia Tree .....

- Evergreen year round, Full Sun, Drought Tolerant
- Growth Rate: 1 to 2 ft/Yr
- Moderate Debris
- Height: 60-80 feet
- Width: 20-40 feet
- Plant at least  $\geq 10'$  from sidewalks, walls or foundations
- Planting Seasons:
  - Best in Oct-DEC OR alternately March-May
- Large (dinner-plate size), creamy-white, very fragrant, saucer-shaped, blooming in late spring and summer.



## 12.14 Thundercloud Purple Leaf Plum Tree .....

- Deciduous, Full Sun, Drought Tolerant when mature
- Growth Rate: 1 to 2 ft/Yr
- Moderate Debris (Fruit & leaves)
- Height: 15-25 feet
- Width: 15-25 feet
- Planting Season: Nov-March
- 20-25 year life span
- Characteristics:
  - **Jan-March:** Explodes with fragrant, light pink blossoms before leaves appear
  - **April-Oct:** Purple leaves emerge and stay vibrant, providing great summer color and shade
  - **Jul-Sept:** Small, edible red plums appear

**NOTE:** Thundercloud Purple Leaf Plum tree is a specific larger variety in the family of standard plum trees.

