

Texas Native Plant Dichotomous Key

1a Plant grows on trees.....go to 2
 1b Plant grows differently.....go to 3

2a Leaves thick and leathery; a parasite on trees.....Binomial Name: *Phoradendron tomentosum* (**Mistletoe**)
 2b Leaves thin and silvery, an epiphyte on trees.....Binomial Name: *Tillandsia recurvata* (**Ball Moss**)

3a Leaves small and clumped together and look like a green rat tail.....Binomial Name: *Juniperus ashei* (**Ashe Juniper**)



3b Leaves appear differently.....go to 4

4a Plant spiny with thick pencil or pancake shaped stems, stems are segmented (or divided into parts).....go to 5



4b Plant appears differently.....go to 6

5a Stem segments (or parts) are round like a pencil.....Binomial Name: *Opuntia leptocaulis* (**Pencil Cactus**)



5b Stem segments (or parts) are flattened like a pancake.....Binomial Name: *Opuntia lindheimeri* (**Texas Prickly Pear**)



6a Leaves with parallel veins running from the base to the tip.....go to 7



6b Leaf veins not parallel, branching from a midrib or main veins.....go to 10



7a Looks like a grass.....go to 8



7b Does not look like a grass.....go to 9

8a A large grass with leaves up to 2 feet in length.....Binomial Name: *Arundo donax* (**Giant Reed**)

8b A mid-sized, bunch grass with gold colored stem.....Binomial Name: *Schizachyrium scoparium* (**Little Bluestem**)

9a Leaves twisted like a DNA, and growing from ground.....Binomial Name: *Yucca rupicola* (**Twisted-leaf Yucca**)

9b Leaves forming a clump on the ground, looks like a grass.....Binomial Name: *Nolina lindheimeriana* (**Devil's Shoestring**)

10a Leaves compound, the blades divided into leaflets.....go to 11



10b Leaves simple, blade in one piece, not divided into leaflets.....go to 14



11a Leaves trifoliolate, the blades divided into three leaflets.....go to 12



11b Leaves not trifoliolate.....go to 13



12a Leaflets stiff, spine tipped, and dagger shaped.....Binomial Name: *Berberis trifoliolata* (**Agarito**)



12b Terminal leaflet 3-lobed, tapering to a wedge-shaped base.....Binomial Name: *Rhus aromatic* (**Fragrant Sumac**)



13a Leaves once compound, axis unbranched.....Binomial Name: *Rhus virens* (**Evergreen Sumac**)



13b Leaves twice compound, main axis branched into leaflet-bearing branches. Binomial Name: *Prosopis glandulosa* (**Honey Mesquite**)



14a Leaves alternately arranged.....go to 15



14b Leaves opposite, dark green and glossy.....Binomial Name: *Ligustrum japonicum* (**Japanese Privet**)



15a Looks like a shrub or bush.....go to 16

15b Looks like a tree.....go to 17

16a Leaf edges with rounded teeth.....Binomial Name: *Ilex vomitoria* (**Yaupon Holly**)



16b Leaf edges smooth and curled under.....Binomial Name: *Diospyros texana* (**Texas Persimmon**)

17a Thick leathery leaves with smooth leaf edges.....Binomial Name: *Quercus fusiformis* (**Live Oak**)

17b Leaves edges appear different.....go to 18

18a Leaves heart shaped with rose-purple flower.....Binomial Name: *Cercis Canadensis* (**Redbud**)

18b Leaves ovate (oval-shaped) and asymmetrical.....go to 19



19a Leaves with smooth edges, bark warts.....Binomial Name: *Celtis reticulata* (**Netleaf Hackberry**)

19b Leaves with serrated (knife-like) edges.....Binomial Name: *Ulmus crassifolia* (**Cedar elm**)

