

Ask The Plant Groom(tm) by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom(tm)

QA1101

I was wondering why the Birch Tree and the Sugar Maple Tree is not grown in North Central

and East Texas. Would they thrive down here?

Thanks. - DMC

In two words ... our heat. And, no. Both of these trees need cooler summers than we have in Texas. There are many trees that do extremely well in Texas, I encourage you to plant from these selections.

Here is one location on-line in Texas where you may secure accurate and reliable information on trees for Texas; <http://dallas-tx.tamu.edu/> then click on - Horticulture, Plants for Dallas County then Deciduous Trees or Evergreen Trees. These lists will provide: common and scientific names, heights, widths, fall colors, growth shapes, growth rates, native or well adapted, fruits, flowers, trunk color and texture, where adapted in TX USDA zones, WaterWise noted and potential problems.

Do visit these lists because I believe you will be pleased with the available information.

I have a large oak tree in my front yard that has a lot of mistletoe/deadwood damage. Is it possible to trim the dead wood past the mistletoe, which is about 1/3 of the tree top, and still have re-growth of the top? - D. R.

Here's what I'd do:

- * Look at the tree's current shape and visualize what it would look like if all the dead would was removed
- * Do the same thing with the mistletoe removed by cutting the limbs off below where it is growing
- * Then determine if the tree will look OK to you after this is completed

If you still think the tree is acceptable after the dead wood and mistletoe removal as per your inquiry let it remain and resprout this spring. New shoots which should develop into limbs will need thinning to the strongest in 2008.

An option. remove all the dead wood and the mistletoe at each spot it's currently growing. Dead wood is unsafe and should be removed from all trees. By removing the parts of mistletoe you see growing you will have an annual maintenance item similar to

cleaning the gutters or raking leaves. This option will save more of the tree's current structure but will provide you something to do annually by removing the regrowth of mistletoe.

I am interested in purchasing the book about all the different plants in Texas. I recently built a home outside of Rosebud and would like to do my landscape with Texas plants that are resistant to drought and the lovely Texas heat we have.

Thanks for your assistance. - C. P.

WaterWise and EARTH-KIND(tm) landscape plans are in the contents of my book 'Dale Groom's Texas Gardening Guide'. Both native and well adapted plants are featured in the book. If you wish to secure a personalized copy send \$29. To TGG, P. O. Box 365, Eustace, TX 75124 with your request.

I listen to your show on Saturday every chance I get. I find it very informative and this garden idiot needs all the help he can get. This is my question: Can an owari satsuma tree survive and produce in the Tyler area? I received one of these trees from my sister for Christmas. She knows I love satsumas and I haven't been able to find anyone that sells them around here. It is about 3 feet tall and full of green leaves. I went to a site and read a lot of stuff I do not understand. Any help you can give me on how to plant and care for this tree will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you - A. F

Thanks for your compliment. You may also receive podcasts of my show from ktbb.com.

Satsuma, oranges, grapefruits, oranges, lemons are all tropical fruits and are occasionally frozen in our Rio Grande valley region. The answer is none of these will survive and produce well outside of our USDA plant hardiness zone 9. Do grow your satsuma in a large container and use it outside when temperatures are above freezing but do keep it portable so it may be rolled indoors for protection. You may wish to visit <http://texassuperstar.com/plants.html> for information about the Texas Cooperative Extension's Texas Superstar Plant ... Satsuma Mandarin for more information on their cold hardiness and how to grow them.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist, Master Gardener Program Coordinator-Dallas County, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A & M University System, Native Texan, Author, Columnist, Radio/TV Host is also known statewide as The Plant Groom(tm). Send your horticultural related questions including lawns, gardens and landscapes to Dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net. To receive free help M - F, 8:30am - 4pm call the Master Gardeners' Help Desk at 214-904-3053.

Copyright 2007 by Groom Media and all rights are reserved.