

## Texas Persimmon

*Diospyros texana*

### Secondary Names:

Chapote, Mexican Persimmon

**Leaf Type:** Semi-evergreen

**Texas Native:**  Yes  No

**Firewise:**  Yes  No



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### Tree Description:

A small tree to 40 feet, often low-forking or multi-trunked, with an open, oval crown. Notable for its muscular or fluted trunk and branches.

### Range/Site Description:

Rocky and dry sites in Central and South Texas, west to Brewster county. Requires well drained soils and has gained favor as a landscape tree from Austin to Houston.

### Leaf:

Simple, alternate, with almost no petiole, 1" to 2" long, obovate, thick and leathery, pubescent underneath; leaf edge without teeth, sometimes rolled under during droughts.

### Flower:

Male and female flowers on separate trees. Male flowers inconspicuous; female flowers small, white, five-petaled, appearing in spring and attracting many insects.

### Fruit:

A sweet, round fruit, 1" across and slightly depressed at the tip, black when ripe. Favored by wildlife and edible by humans.

### Bark:

Smooth, gray, and tight, developing olive or light brown patches that peel away to show the lighter bark beneath.

### Wood:

Wood is heavy and very dark, with pale sapwood. Uses include tools and turning blocks; the fruit has been used to make a black dye.

### Similar Species:

Common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) is a medium to large tree with dark, blocky bark and large, edible fruits in the fall. Common crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) has smooth, muscular trunks and branches with peeling bark.

### Interesting Facts:

Wood is suitable for making salt shakers because it absorbs moisture.