



## Earth Kind: Environmental Stewardship Program

*Walker County LEAF-PRO projects support  
the Texas AgriLife Extension Service,  
Earth Kind:  
Environmental Stewardship Program.*

### What are the guiding principles of Earth Kind?

Base your horticultural decisions on:

- A deep, abiding respect for the environment.
- The latest scientifically-sound, research-based information.
- Employ Earth Kind techniques of plant selection and culture to avoid pest problems before they occur.
- Use pesticides only as a last resort. If a pesticide becomes absolutely necessary, then select the most Earth Kind or environmentally responsible product available.
- Putting Earth Kind techniques into everyday practice will help your family, your business, your community and your environment. Remember, "Earth Kind to benefit human kind."



Educational Publication Information Series

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# Landscape Trees & Drought Issues!

Walker County



Drought Damaged Landscape



LEAF-PRO project funding provided by:  
Houston-Galveston Area Council & Texas  
Commission on Environmental Quality



### What is LEAF-PRO?

The LEAF-PRO project is an educational outreach effort designed to demonstrate and promote educated, ecologically responsible decision making through home landscape practices.



The objectives of LEAF-PRO are:

- Protection** of our environment,
- Reduction** of solid waste, and
- Outreach** education.

## Landscape Trees & Drought Issues!



After a dry year, many homeowners are left wondering what the health status of their perennial landscape plants may be. Our woody type landscape plants which fall into these categories are our trees and shrubs.

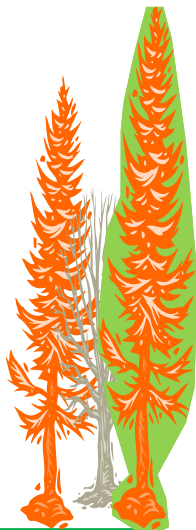
Trees can usually be placed into three categories following a severely dry year:

- Definitely Dead
- Likely to Live
- Questionable

### Test Your Plant!

There are easy tests you can utilize to determine the possible status of a woody plant. These tests will need to be checked at several locations within the canopy of the tree.

1. Scratch Test - gently scrape the bark on a twig or branch with a dull knife or tool. If you see a moist green layer immediately under the bark = good sign the tree is still alive at that time.



Information contained in this publication was adapted from the Texas Forest Service

2. Bend Test - gently bend a larger twig or smaller branch. The further you can bend this part of the plant without it breaking or snapping in two = a good sign that the plant is still alive at that time.

### Definitely Dead:

- Needle bearing/conifer trees that are completely red throughout the tree.\*
- Shade trees such as hardwoods that have dropped all their leaves AND are beginning to drop limbs or large pieces of bark fall into this category (utilize the scratch & bend test).
- If your hardwood tree also has Hypoxylon Canker, characterized by loss of bark with brown to gray mats of spores underneath, you can consider the tree beyond saving.

### Likely to Live:

Trees with some green or yellow leaves still attached. Some trees that dropped all their leaves early (utilize the scratch & bend test to verify the current status).

### Questionable:

- Plants that fit somewhere between likely to live and definitely dead.
- Pine trees with red or brown needles in the top of the tree and green needles in the lower canopy are in serious condition and may not survive -mainly due to the risk of insect damage.

#### \* **Exceptions to the above information:**

- Bald Cypress trees (needle bearing) are normally brown to red in the dormant season and does drop its foliage each year.
- Pine trees with scattered yellow or red needles throughout the tree may have a good chance of growing properly in the spring.

*Under drought stressed conditions, the most effective method of protecting your tree is to provide water. Trees usually require 2-3 inches per month to maintain themselves. \*One inch of water= 5 gallons per sq yard X number of sq yards under the entire canopy of each tree*

If you would like further information on anything contained in this publication, or to arrange for presentation of a program on pest management, please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Walker County office at (936) 435-2426