



Standing Cypress, Black-eyed Susan, Horsemint

Native and Adapted Plants for Central Texas

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Class Topics

Part I: The Basics

A. Why Native and Adapted?

- Native plants (why important)
- Adapted plants (benefits, considerations)
- Other terms (cultivars, invasives)

B. Eco-regions, Adaptations, and Wildlife Value of Native Texas Plants

Part II: Getting to Know the Guide

Part III: Plant Selections for Specific Garden Needs

Why Native and Adapted?

For the benefit of our Austin and Texas wildlife and landscape, it is helpful to select plants that:

- Are water-wise
- Are drought-tolerant
- Have wildlife value (*esp. natives*)
- Are naturally resistant to pests and diseases (*esp. natives*)
- Need less maintenance and fertilizing

→ *Also, higher survivability saves money!*



Bumblebee on Shrubby Boneset, or White Mistflower 

What is native?

- A **native species** is one that exists naturally in an eco-region without human introduction, direct or indirect.
- Native flora and fauna in an ecological community, having evolved together, are often **interdependent**.



Autumn Sage (Cherry Sage),
Datura, Blackfoot Daisy

Why Are Native Plants Important?

- They protect Texas' **biodiversity**
- They gain back **natural ecosystems** for our native flora and fauna → **wildlife interdependence**
- They are specially **adapted** to handle Texas soil and weather
- They use **less water** and require **less maintenance, fertilizing, and pest control**
- They protect our **watersheds**
- They keep Texas **beautiful!**



Adapted Plants

- **Adapted plants** are non-invasive, non-native plants that are able to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions.
- Adapted plants might come from other regions of Texas, the U.S., or the world.



Benefits of Adapted Plants

- Increased choices
- Many are readily available
- Might fit a design need
- Some have wildlife value

If you have to amend a soil's pH, or have to fertilize or water excessively to keep a plant alive, that plant is not well adapted for the area.



Shrimp Plant
Justicia brandegeana

Photo: austintexas.gov

Cultivars

- **Cultivars** are varieties selected and/or bred by humans for a particular trait, then propagated to maintain them.

Note: Depending on the variety, a cultivar might no longer function in the ecosystem in terms of wildlife value (seeds, nectar, pollen, chemistry). If you are planting for wildlife, it is helpful to research first!

Malva viscus
x 'Pam
Purveyer's Pink'



Lantana 'New Gold'



Photo:
TAMU

Texas Noxious and Invasive Plants

Not all adapted plants are good choices. It is important to know their habits and how they spread.

Invasive plants are plants that spread easily, grow rapidly, and have serious potential for causing economical or ecological harm, especially to agriculture, horticulture, native plants, ecology, and/or waterways.

In natural areas, invasive plants can quickly outcompete native plants for space, nutrients, water, and sunlight.

Chinaberry
Source: nps.gov



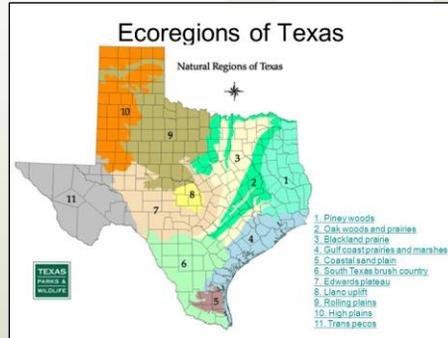
Chinese Tallow
Source: AgriLife



A Closer Look at Natives

Texas Has 11 Ecoregions

An **ecoregion** is a major ecosystem area with distinctive geography, characteristic flora and fauna, and like environmental conditions.



Why do regional plants matter?

- *A plant native to another area of Texas might not grow well in your area.*
- *Native wildlife depend heavily on regional vegetation and ecosystem webs.*

Central Texas Ecoregions

- **Travis County** = primarily Edwards Plateau + Blackland Prairies (the Balcones Fault is the division line)
- Central Texas also includes Cross Timbers and Prairies as well as Post Oak Savannah



Edwards Plateau

- Home of dense Ashe Juniper-Oak woodlands and grassy savanna
- Honeycombed with caves and aquifers
- Covered by limestone and granite; caliche slopes
- Home to many endemic plants and animals
- Clearing for timber and grazing drastically altered the plateau



Golden-cheeked Warbler
Photo: Wiki Commons

Blackland Prairies

- Described by early settlers as "a vast endless sea of grasses and wildflowers" with scattered clumps of trees and riparian woodlands
- Rich, deep clay soil
- Once a vast area of massive plant diversity; today endangered
- Habitat for more than 500 fauna species, including 327 bird species



Big Bluestem
Andropogon gerardii
Photo: Wasowski, WFC



Maximilian Sunflower
Helianthus maximilliani

Adaptations of Texas Plants

Our native plants are **adapted** to handle Texas soil and weather.

In Central Texas, we have:

- Alkaline soil
- Heavy clay to thin caliche
- Hot summers (Death Star)
- Cold winters
- Drought
- Flash floods



Goldenball Leadtree



Velvetleaf Mallow



Dealing with Drought

Drought-resistant



Prickly Pear

Drought-enduring



TX Mountain Laurel,
Fragrant Mimosa

Drought-evading



Rain Lily,
Winecup

Photo: Bransford, WFC



Photo: Wasowski, WFC

Drought-escaping



TX Bluebonnets,
Indian Paintbrush

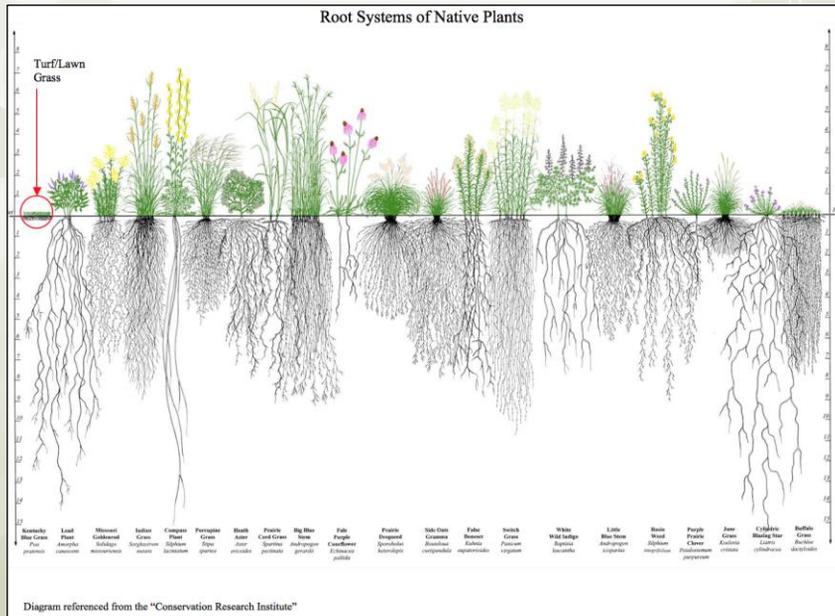
Other Adaptations

Some native plants:

- go dormant in the winter
- have fire resistance or fire response
- have long seed dormancy
- time blooms after last freeze
- are flexible!



Mealy Blue Sage,
Purple Coneflower



Natives Protect Our Watershed

- ❖ Native root systems:
 - Help water infiltrate soil: **groundwater** to **aquifer**
 - Moderate floods and droughts
 - Help control erosion
 - Help clean polluted water

- ❖ Using natives reduces use of chemicals that pollute our water systems



Photo: Speak Up Austin

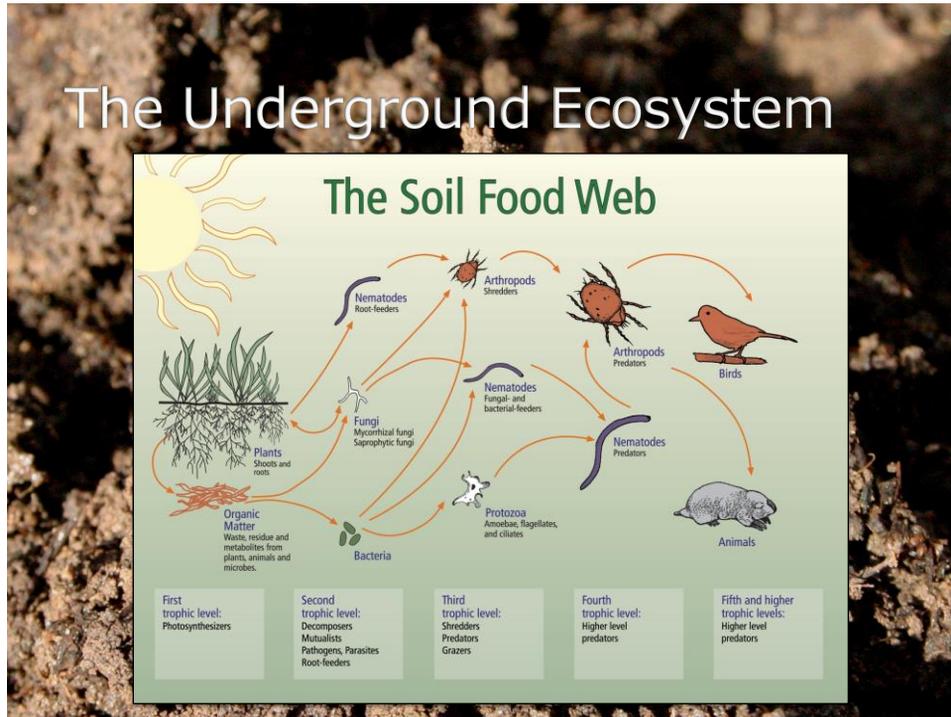


*Native plants improve
water quality*

Natives Are Naturally Fertilized

Native plants thrive best when natural soil processes are allowed to exist. They get their necessary nutrients as soil organisms consume **organic matter**.





Biodiversity = Protection



Robber fly eating a beetle

Photo: Purdue Extension

Wildlife Value

Native plants are the foundation of biodiversity.

Native Plants as Sources of Food

Queen Butterfly on Gregg's Mistflower

- Native plants are the best sources of food for wildlife.
- Aim for year-round supplies of food.

Seeds	Fruits
Berries	Sap
Nectar	Pollen
Foliage	Stems
Nuts	Other Plant Parts

→ Insects!

Nectar and Pollen



Juniper
Hairstreak on
Blackfoot Daisy

Nectar and pollen are important sources of nutrients for numerous insects, birds, bats, and other animals.



Hummingbird at
Standing Cypress



Osmia bee
on Texas
Mountain
Laurel



Fly on
Prairie Parsley

Fruits, Seeds, Nuts

Berries and other fruits, seeds, and nuts provide food for birds and other animals and are especially important in fall and winter.



Acorns,
Quercus sp.



Possumhaw
Ilex decidua



Purple Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea



Indiangrass
*Sorghastrum
latifolium*

Photo: Terri Siegenthaler, WFC

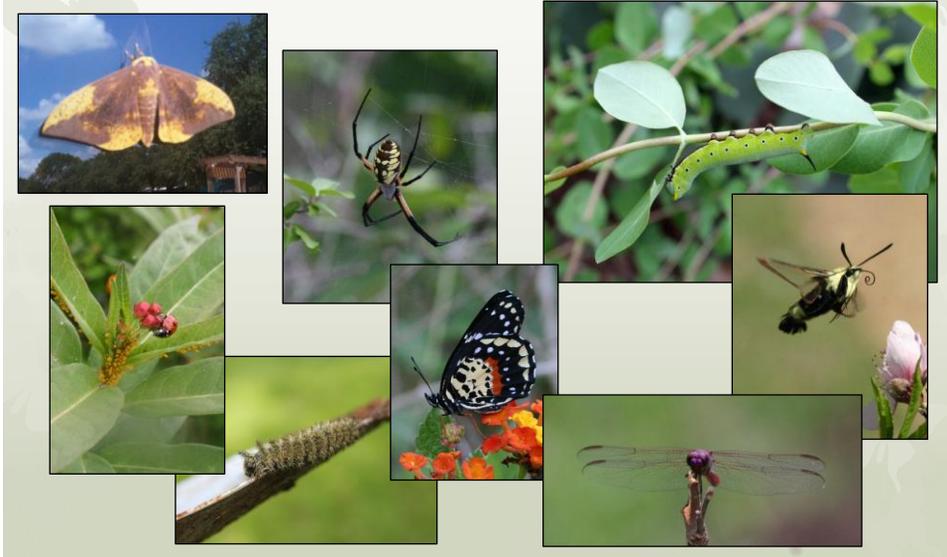
Leaves -- especially for caterpillars!

- Some mammals and other animals will consume leaves
- Insects with chewing parts are often **specialists** – they are adapted for eating specific plants with specific leaf chemistry.



Butterfly	Lays Its Eggs on	Caterpillar
Gulf Fritillary 	 Passionvine	
Crimson Patch 	 Flame Acanthus	
Sleep Orange 	 Lindheimer's Senna	
Monarch 	 Milkweed	

Insects and Spiders: Key Foods



Birds Need Insects in Great Numbers



Photo: Wikipedia Commons

- Most songbirds (96%) feed high-protein caterpillars and spiders to their young – *hundreds per day*
- The seasonal presence of insects is a trigger for the migration of many bird species

→ *They are dependent on native plants for the insects they need.*



Carolina Chickadee,
Barn Swallow,
Bewick's Wren



Sources of Cover

A variety of plant types and heights can provide safe cover for many different wildlife species.

- Trees
- Dense shrubs
- Evergreens
- Tall grasses
- Thorny plants
- Snags
- Meadow
- Water plants
- Groundcover
- Leaf litter
- Brush piles
- Fallen logs



Photo Source: OKJDiscoveries

Nature's Layers: Vertical Niches



Sources of Places to Raise Young



Carolina Wren
babies



Sleepy Orange Caterpillar
on Lindheimer's Senna

Many places that provide cover are also good places for raising young (including laying eggs).

Mature trees	Host plants
Dense shrubs	Groundcover
Snags	Meadows
Hollow logs	Water plants
Bunch grasses	Brush piles
Leaf litter	Bark, leaves

Water Sources

Foliage, flowers, and fruit provide sources of water for many fauna species, especially when other water is scarce.

Prickly Pear
(Spineless)
Opuntia sp.



Texas
Persimmon
Diospyros texana



Red Mulberry
Morus rubra





Adapted Plants and Wildlife Value

Many adapted plants do provide nectar, fruits, and other elements of value to certain wildlife.

- However, research has shown that **pollinators are 4 times more attracted to native plants.**
- **Leaf chemistry** dictates what specialist insects, such as many butterflies and moths, need. The caterpillars and adults then become **key food sources in the ecosystem.**
- Nutrients from **native berries** are more likely to be most appropriate for the animals that evolved with them.



Snowberry
Clearwing
visiting a
peach blossom
for nectar



Native host
plant: Coral
Honeysuckle

Part II: The Guide



Learn First, Plant Later

Researching ANY plant species you are considering can help prevent countless problems later. Look at:

- Size at full growth
- Plant needs (light, water, soil pH, etc.)
- Seasonal/weather tolerance
- Spreading habits
- Wildlife interest
- Maintenance
- Pests
- Gardener reviews

Development and Database

- Why was it created, and why is it special?
- Who contributed?
- What is the phone number if you need many guides?

Online Grow Green Database

(www.growgreen.org):

<http://austintexas.gov/department/grow-green/plant-guide>

- **Sections:** Trees, Small Trees/Large Shrubs, Shrubs and Roses, Perennials, Yuccas/Agaves, Succulents/Cacti/Sotols, Ornamental and Prairie Grasses, Vines, Groundcovers, Turf Grasses, FAQ, Plants to Avoid, Index
- **What's changed?** More natives, removed deer-resistance and availability columns, removed rain garden and water plant lists

The Key Is the Key (p. 4)

- What's native?
- What is UA?
- Other items in the key

In this presentation,
plants native to
Texas will be shown
with this symbol:



Getting to Know the Guide

Game Time!

Question:

What deciduous oak tree is native to the Edwards Plateau and is considerably smaller than other regional oaks, making it a good choice for small yards?

Lacey Oak

Quercus laceyi



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Photos:
Doris Happel



Photos: Treeland Nursery

- **Deciduous to semi-evergreen** oak, native to Edwards Plateau
- Grows 30-50'; resistant to oak wilt
- Peach and red leaves in spring mature into blue-green foliage; yellow fall foliage
- **Water:** Very low
- **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Like other oaks, an important host plant for numerous butterflies and moths; acorns feed birds and mammals, provides great cover and nesting spots for much of the year

Question:

In what season(s) does the groundcover Pigeonberry bloom and produce fruit?

Pigeonberry

Rivina humilis

- Native **groundcover** (B/E) or border plant, 1-1.5'
- Offers blooms and berries at the same time (spring to fall)
- May go dormant in drought
- **Water:** Low-med
- **Light:** Part shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Berries prized by birds; flowers attract small pollinators



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Photo:
NPSOT

© Great Plains

Frogfruit

Phyla nodiflora



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- Native low-growing **groundcover** (B/E)
- 6-8"
- Spreads rapidly under right conditions
- **Water:** L-M (tolerates wet)
- **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Host plant for Phaon Crescentspot, Buckeye, and White Peacock butterflies; attracts small pollinators; provides cover for toads and other small critters

Question:

What kind of plants are *Carex* spp., and on what page would you find information on them?

Sedges

Carex sp.



Texas Sedge 
Photo: Joseph A. Marcus, WFC



Berkeley Sedge (non-native)
Photo: Shirley A. Fox

- **Groundcover**; great alternative to turf; low-growing species require no mowing; many species shade-loving
- Many species native to Texas; adapted also available
- Height varies
- **Water**: Most are low water
- **Light**: Sun/Part Shade/Shade
- **Wildlife Value**: Cover, possibly nesting



Cedar Sedge (*Carex planostachys*)
(example only: this species not currently readily available; had growing naturally)



Question:

What plant has the scientific name
Aloysia virgata?

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Sweet Almond Verbena

Aloysia virgata



Lower Photo: Dorothy Borders

- Non-native **semi-evergreen shrub** (from Argentina)
- Very fragrant white flower spikes
- Needs room! 4-8'+
- **Water:** Low-Med
- **Light:** Sun/Part shade
- Blooms in warmer months; dies back in harsh winters
- **Wildlife Value:** Pollinator magnet

Texas Kidneywood

Eysenhardtia texana



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- **Deciduous shrub** with small leaves (can prune for shape)
- Fragrant white flower spikes
- Fast-growing; airy nature provides light shade to plants below
- Blooms often from spring to fall
- **Water:** Very low
- **Light:** Likes full sun and bright shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Pollinator magnet; host plant for Dogface butterfly

Question:

What eco-region(s) is Mexican Plum naturally found in?

Mexican Plum

Prunus mexicana



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Lower photo: Frisco Green Living

- Small native **deciduous tree** (B/E), 15-20'
- Great understory tree
- Lovely plant, though summer foliage may look ragged
- **Water:** Low
- **Light:** Sun/Part shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Host plant for Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Cecropia Moth; summer fleshy fruit for birds and mammals; dense foliage for nesting and cover; early blooms for pollinators

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Photo: Olivia Johnston



Photo: Julie A. Gidwitz



Photo: Tom Murray



Cecropia Moth



Photos: Dan Hardy



Photo: J.C. Jones, BugGuide

Lady Beetles



Summer fruit for birds, mammals

Mexican Redbud

Cercis canadensis var. 'mexicana'



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- Small **deciduous tree**, 10-15'
- Native to west Texas
- **Water:** Most drought-tolerant of the Redbud varieties. Needs well-drained soil.
- **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Early spring blooms for pollinators; Henry Elfin Butterfly host plant; cover; nesting site

Redbud, with Henry's Elfin caterpillar/butterfly



Question:

I'm looking for a vine to go on a trellis in front of my A/C unit. I want it to be deciduous so that it shades the unit in summer but lets light in during winter. A yellow or orange color would be nice in that spot, but I don't want it to be too aggressive. What could I get?

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Mexican Flame Vine*Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides*

Photo: GlassHouseWorks

- Non-native **deciduous woody vine** (from Mexico)
- Bright orange-red daisy-like flowers throughout warmer seasons
- Dies back in cold winters
- Easy to propagate; reaches 10'+
- **Water:** Low
- **Light:** Full sun to light shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Attracts bees, butterflies, birds

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens



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- **Evergreen vine** (native to East Texas)
- All parts are poisonous! Don't eat it.
- High-climbing, 6-20'
- Fragrant yellow trumpet-shaped flowers
- **Water:** medium
- **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
- **Soil:** pH adaptable, prefers acidic-neutral
- **Wildlife Value:** Attracts hummingbirds and other pollinators



Question:

How tall does a Skyflower (Duranta) shrub grow?

Duranta Skyflower

Duranta erecta



Photo: Austin Native Landscaping

- Sometimes evergreen shrub (native to Mexico to S. America)
- 5-10' tall
- Leaves and berries are toxic
- Dies back in cold winters
- **Water:** Low-medium
- **Light:** Sun/Part shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Attracts butterflies

Question:

What is particularly interesting about the common name for *Nolina texana*, Basket Grass?

Basket Grass

Nolina Texana



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Photo: Paul Cox, WFC

- Clumping **evergreen perennial** native to Edwards Plateau
- Not a true grass (member of the Lily Family)
- 2', with leaves 4' long – don't plant close to walkway
- **Water:** Very low
- **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Provides cover; attracts pollinators; host plant for Atea and Sandia hairstreak butterflies

Question:

What is one positive and one negative characteristic of the shrub Flame Acanthus?

Flame Acanthus

Anisacanthus quadrifidus



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- **Deciduous shrub** (native to Edwards Plateau)
- Very drought tolerant; blooms in hot summer
- **Spreads easily**
- **Water:** Very low
- **Light:** Sun/Part Shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Attracts hummingbirds; host plant for Crimson Patch Butterfly



Question:

What are two common names for *Ehretia anacua*?

Anacua

Ehretia anacua



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- Semi-evergreen tree
- 20-25'
- White flowers, edible fruit
- May die back with freeze
- **Water:** low
- **Light:** Sun/Part shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Bee nectar source; attracts birds



Question:

What is a non-invasive alternative for Scarlet Firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*)?

Evergreen Sumac

Rhus virens



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- Evergreen shrub
- 8-10'
- Fall blooms and berries, high in Vitamin C
- **Water:** Low
- **Light:** Sun/Part shade
- **Wildlife Value:** Provides food and cover; host plant



Dusky-blue
Groundsquirrel
Photo: Karl and Dorothy Legler

*Plants for Select Garden
Needs*

Selections Based on Garden Needs

Choose plants based on:

- Interests, favorites
- Garden type and/or environment (light, shade, design style, etc.)

Pay attention to the needs and habits of plants:

- Water requirements
- Soil pH
- Light/shade needs
- Size at full growth
- Habits (How does it spread? Will it have a dormant period?)
- Wildlife considerations



The Best Advice: Diversity

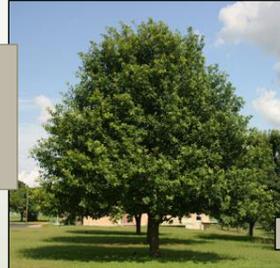
- Group plants with similar needs
- Diversity in flora =
diversity in fauna =
better protection for garden
- Consider bloom and fruiting times
- Evergreen and deciduous
- Layers
- Variety in colors and flower types



Trees, Large-Medium

Trees, when chosen appropriately, provide beauty and well-needed shade for Texas landscapes.

Oaks have tremendous wildlife value. They support many hundreds of species.



Photos: Backbone Valley Nursery

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✓ **Anacua** 



✓ **Lacey Oak** 



Photos: Doris Happel

Mexican White Oak 

Quercus polymorpha
45-60' **Semi-evergreen** tree 

Resistant to oak wilt

Light: Sun

Water: Very low

Wildlife: Host plant for many species, good cover/nesting, nuts for birds and mammals

Trees, cont'd



Photos: Tree Land

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Texas Ash 

Fraxinus texensis
40'-50' **deciduous** tree 

Fast-grower

Light: Sun

Water: Very low

Wildlife: Nesting, cover, food for birds, host for Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Photos: Countryside Nursery

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Arizona Cypress 

Hesperocyparis/Cupressus arizonica

25-50' **evergreen** tree

Blue-silver foliage

Seeds require fire

Light: Sun

Water: Very low

Wildlife: Cover, nesting



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Texas Persimmon 

Diospyros texana
12-20' **deciduous to semi-evergreen** tree 

White flowers, edible fruit

Light: Sun/Part shade

Water: Very low

Wildlife: Blooms for pollinators, fruit for birds and mammals, host plant for Gray Hairstreak

Understory Trees/Shrubs

Planting shrubs and small trees under shade trees gives much needed habitat to songbirds and other animals.



Photo: City of Austin

✓ Mexican Redbud



✓ Mexican Plum



Anacacho Orchid

Bauhinia lunarioides

6-12' tree, airy habit

Semi-evergreen or deciduous

White blooms in spring

Light: Sun/Part shade

Water: Low

Wildlife: Blooms for pollinators

Understory, cont'd



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American Beautyberry



Callicarpa americana

4-6' deciduous shrub

Light: Shade

Water: Low-med

Wildlife: Fall berries for birds



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Photo: rosalee, gardenweb

Arroyo Sweetwood

Myrospermum sousanum

Deciduous tree up to 20'

Fragrant showy blooms

Light: Sun/Part Shade

Water: Low

Wildlife: Attracts pollinators and birds



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Photo: htop, Dave's Garden

Barbados Cherry



Malpighia glabra

4-6' semi-evergreen shrub

Small pink flowers, berries high in Vitamin C

Light: Sun/Part Shade

Water: Low-med

Wildlife: Attracts pollinators and birds



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Photo: Lee Page, WFC

Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus

2-6' deciduous shrub

Light: Sun/Part Shade

Water: Low

Wildlife: Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, host plant

Shade-tolerant Perennials and Groundcovers

Many people believe nothing grows under trees in Texas, but there are actually many plants that prefer shade.



Photo: W.D. and Dolphia Bransford, WFC

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✓ **Pigeonberry** 



© Great Steins

✓ **Texas Sedge** 



Photo: Joseph A. Marcus, WFC

Heartleaf Skullcap 

Scutellaria ovata subsp. *bracteata*
2' perennial, dormant in summer
Blue flowers
May spread when watered
Light: Shade
Water: Low-med
Wildlife: Attracts butterflies

Shady Perennials/Groundcover, cont'd



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Inland Sea Oats  

Chasmanthium latifolium
2-4' ornamental grass
Deciduous
Hides oak sprouts
Light: Shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Host plant, seeds for birds, good cover



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Cast Iron Plant

Aspidistra elatior
3' **evergreen** perennial
Leaves will scorch in too much sun
Easy to transplant
Light: Shade
Water: Low

Photo: almostedenplants



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Red Columbine 

Aquilegia canadensis
1-2' **semi-evergreen**
Dormant in summer
Light: Sun/Part Shade
Water: medium
Wildlife: Attracts hummingbirds and early pollinating insects



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Chile Pequin 

Capsicum annuum
2-4' **deciduous** perennial
White flowers, **hot** peppers
Light: Sun/Part Shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Attracts birds and small pollinators

Sun Plants That Provide Light Shade

✓ Texas Kidneywood



Desert Willow

Chilopsis linearis
15-20' airy tree
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, host plant

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Fragrant Mimosa

Mimosa borealis
6-8' shrub with prickles
Pink flowers
Light: Sun
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Pollinators

Photo: Joseph A. Marcus, WFC

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Goldenball Leadtree

Leucaena retusa
12-20'+ tree
Light: Sun/Part shade
Yellow spherical blossoms
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Attracts pollinators, offers cover and nesting

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Pollinator Garden – Aim for Variety!



Texas Lantana

Lantana urticoides
3-5' shrub-like perennial
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Pollinator magnet; birds eat the berries; host plant

Photo: Wasowski, UFC

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White Mistflower / Shrubby Boneset

Ageratina havanensis
3-5' deciduous shrub
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low-Med
Wildlife: Pollinator magnet; host plant

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Fall Aster

Aster oblongifolium
2-3' fall bloomer
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Nectar/pollen source

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Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea
1-3' deciduous perennial
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Pollinator magnet; seeds feed birds; host plant

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Attracting Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds visit flowers of many colors but especially favor red tubular flowers.

✓ Flame Acanthus



p. 11

Photo: Noelle Johnson

Cherry Sage  
Salvia greggii
 2-3' evergreen perennial
 Light: Sun/Part shade
 Water: Low
 Wildlife: Hummingbirds, butterflies, host plant



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Coral Honeysuckle  
Lonicera sempervirens
 6-12' semi-evergreen vine
 Light: Sun/Part shade
 Water: Low-medium
 Wildlife: Hummingbirds, butterflies, host plant



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Firebush
Hamelia patens
 3-5' deciduous shrub
 Prune to 6" after first hard freeze
 Light: Sun
 Blooms summer-fall
 Wildlife: Hummingbirds

Attracting Butterflies

- Plant **caterpillar host plants** as well as nectar sources
- Butterflies are particularly attracted to **red, yellow, orange, pink, or purple** blooms
- Plant both flat flowers and short tubular flowers



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Lindheimer's Senna  
Cassia lindheimeriana
 3-4' soft-leaved perennial
 Light: Sun/Part shade
 Water: Low
 Wildlife: Pollen and nectar source; host plant for Sulphur butterflies



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Gregg's Mistflower  
Conoclinium greggii
 1-2' perennial
 Cut back after freeze
 Light: Sun/Part shade
 Water: Low-medium
 Wildlife: Pollinator magnet



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Winecup  
Callirohoe involucrata
 6"-1" sprawling plant
 Dormant when hot
 Light: Sun/Part shade
 Water: Low
 Wildlife: Pollen and nectar source; host

Antelope Horn Milkweed

Asclepias asperula



Not in
guide

- 1-2' **deciduous** perennial
- **Light:** Sun
- **Water:** Low-med
- **Wildlife:** Pollinators; host plant for Monarch and Queen butterflies



Monarch



Queen



Attracting Bees

- Plant a variety of flower types to attract species with shorter or longer tongues
- Bees love **blue, purple, white, violet, and yellow** flowers
- "Bee targets" 
- Fragrance, too!



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Mealy Blue Sage



Salvia farinacea
2-3' perennial

Light: Sun

Water: Low

Wildlife: Pollen and nectar source

✓ Almond Verbena



© Grant Starns



p. 39

Zexmenia



Wedelia texana

1.5-2.5' perennial

Light: Sun/Part shade

Water: Low

Wildlife: Pollen and nectar source; host plant

Evergreens

Evergreens provide important cover for wildlife during winter months, as well as continuous color or screening to the landscape.



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✓ Evergreen Sumac



Texas Sage/Cenizo

Leucophyllum frutescens
5-8' evergreen shrub
"Barometer Bush"
Light: Sun
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Provides food and cover; host plant

Four-nerve Daisy (Hymenoxys)

Tetraneris scaposa
1' evergreen perennial
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Year-round nectar/pollen source

Evergreens, cont'd



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Texas Mountain Laurel

Sophora secundiflora
12-20' evergreen tree
Fragrant early blooms
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Pollinators, good cover/nesting

✓ Carolina Jessamine



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Photo: The Mediterranean Gardener

Bush Germander

Teucrium fruticans
4-6' evergreen shrub
Keep natural shape
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Pollinators, good cover/nesting



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Crossvine

Bignonia capreolata
6-30'+ evergreen vine
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Bees and hummingbirds, cover/nesting

Hot and Dry/Xeric

Drought-hardy plants are a must in Texas. Fortunately, there's a variety, and their use brings texture to your garden.



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Prickly Pear



Opuntia spp.
3-5' cactus
Light: Sun
Water: Low
Wildlife: Bees; some animals consume pads or fruit



Photo: Birds and Blooms

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Artichoke Agave

Agave parryi v. truncata
2-3' succulent
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low
Wildlife: Cover for small arthropods; pollen/nectar if blooming



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Big Muhly



Muhlenbergia linanemeri
3-4' bunch grass
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Low-med
Wildlife: Cover; nesting material; host plant

Photo: Katy Kramer McKinney, WFC

Hot and Dry/Xeric, cont'd



p. 29

Gayfeather



Liatris spp.
1-3' perennial
Purple fall blooms
Light: Sun
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Great nectar source for insects



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Blackfoot Daisy



Melampodium leucanthum
6-12" perennial
Does not like wet feet
Light: Sun
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Nectar/pollen for small insects



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Agarita



Mahonia trifoliata
3-7' shrub with sharp leaves
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Early blooms, spring berries



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Red Yucca



Hesperaloe parviflora
2-4' agave with coral spike
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Attracts hummingbirds

Photo: Arizona Desert Xeriscape

Hot and Dry/Xeric, cont'd



Photo: Rachel Cywinski, WFC

Esperanza

Tecoma stans
4-6' **deciduous** shrub
Light: Sun
Water: Low
Wildlife: Great nectar source for bees and hummingbirds



Photo: Joseph A. Marcus, WFC

Damianita

Chrysactinia mexicana
1' **evergreen** perennial
Fragrant foliage
Light: Sun
Water: Very low
Wildlife: Great nectar source for bees and small butterflies



Buffalograss

Bouteloua dactyloides
3-12" turf grass
Often grown with Blue Grama and Curly Mesquite
Light: Sun
Water: Low
Wildlife: Seeds for birds, host plant for Skipper butterflies

Screening Plants



p. 15

Photo: Sally and Andy Wasowski, WFC

Wax Myrtle

Morella cerifera
12-15'+ evergreen shrub
Plant away from structures
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Medium
Wildlife: Berries, cover, host plant for two Hairstreak butterflies



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Photo: Forest & Kim Starr

Pineapple Guava

Feijoa sellowiana
6-10' evergreen shrub
Pink blooms, edible fruit
Light: Sun
Water: Low-med
Wildlife: Attracts pollinators

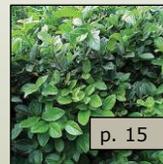


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Photo: Sally and Andy Wasowski, WFC

Cherry Laurel

Prunus caroliniana
15-20'+ evergreen shrub
White flowers, dark fruit, **poisonous** leaves
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Medium
Wildlife: Attracts birds and pollinators



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Photo: Countryside Nursery

Sandankwa Viburnum

Viburnum suspensum
6-8' evergreen shrub
Fragrant, white waxy flowers, red berries
Freeze might damage
Light: Sun/Part shade
Water: Medium

Ponds

- There are many native water-loving plants – check local stores and ask friends for divides.
- If choosing exotic plants for your pond, always pay attention to whether they are detrimental to nearby creeks and waterways. Pond plants can and do escape!

Horsetail Reed 
Equisetum hyemale L.



Photo: Nest Studio

American White Water Lily 
Nymphaea odorata



Photo: Joseph Marcus, WFC

Lizard Tail 
Saururus cernuus L.



Photo: Online Plant Guide

Common Rush 
Juncus effusus L.



Photo: Hosking Nursery

Arrowhead 
Sagittaria lancifolia



Photo: Ray Mathews, WFC

Texas Star Hibiscus
Hibiscus coccineus



Deer-Resistant Plants

Plants with strong scents, tastes, or textures are least palatable to deer.

Examples include: [Sages/Salvias](#), [Basket Grass](#), [Big Muhly](#), [Chocolate Daisy](#), [Chile Pequin](#), [Texas Betony](#), [Damianita](#), [Milkweed](#), [Shrubby Skullcap](#), [Texas Lantana](#), [Flame Acanthus](#), and more



Where to Find Information

- **Austin's Native and Adapted Landscape Plants** (also, www.growgreen.org)
- **General Native Texas Plant info (Wildflower Center):**
<http://www.wildflower.org/explore/>
- **Central Texas Horticulture:**
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>
- **TC Master Gardener Help Desk and Daphne Richards**
- **Caterpillar Host Plants:**
<http://texasento.net/CenTexPlnts.pdf> (Austin Butterfly Forum)
<http://wwwtest.utexas.edu/tmm/tnhc/entomology/butterfly/tnhc-tx-butterfly-gardening.pdf> (Univ. of Texas)
- **Bird Favorites (Travis Audubon):**
<http://travisaudubon.org/home/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Bird-PlantsTravis-September2010.pdf>



Where to Buy Natives and Adapted

Local nurseries: Several offer many native and good adapted choices, including:

- Barton Springs Nursery (South-Central Austin)
- Natural Gardener (South Austin)
- Vivero Growers (en route to Dripping Springs)
- It's About Thyme (South Austin)
- The Great Outdoors (South Austin)
- Shoal Creek Nursery (Central Austin)
- Red Barn (North Austin)
- Green 'n Growing (Pflugerville)
- Round Rock Gardens (Round Rock)
- McIntire's Garden Center (Georgetown)



Native Plant Sales: At the **Wildflower Center's** spring (April) and fall (October) plant sales, you can get hard-to-find natives for your garden. Also, our local **Native Plant Societies** periodically host sales.

Native Seeds: **Native American Seed** at www.seedsources.com

Wrapping Up

Reflection on Native and Adapted
Plants

- *Sustainability
- *Suitability
- *Wildlife Considerations

Questions?



Chocolate Daisy
Berlandiera lyrata



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Mmmm, chocolate....