There are many reasons for choosing native plants in the garden. [ask attendees what their interests are or why they hope to learn]
Low maintenance  …  Low water consumption  etc.
What can we do?

One thing is to plant more native plants. The largest plants would be tall trees, which we do not address in this presentation. After trees, the next largest plants in the residential garden or landscape are small trees. Small trees offer cover for wildlife as well as food in the form of nectar and fruit.

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**Small Trees**

- Anacacho orchid tree *Bauhinia lunarioides*
- Desert willow *Chilopsis linearis*
- Eve’s necklace *Styphnolobium affine*
- Flameleaf sumac *Rhus lanceolata*
- Goldenball leadtree *Leucaena retusa*
- Mexican buckeye *Ungnadia speciosa*
- Texas mountain laurel *Sapohra secundiflora*
- Texas persimmon *Diospyros texana*
- Texas redbud *Cercis canadensis var. texensis*
- Yaupon holly *Ilex vomitoria*
Anacacho Orchid Tree  Fabaceae (Pea family)
Photos: Bob Kamper
Low water use, dry soil, partial shade, deer resistance high
6-12 ft high, deciduous
Plant on south side of building for protection in winter
Blooms Mar – May
Prefers rocky, limestone soils
Desert Willow
Photo: flower - Bob Kamper, whole tree – Sally & Andy Wasowski
Low water use, highly drought tolerant, tolerates dry to moist soil.
Full sun, moderately deer resistant. 15-40 height.
Blooms April-September after rains.
Prefers well drained limestone soils but can survive in a variety of soils.
Natural habitat is ditches, ravines, arroyos, washes, etc.
Larval host – white-winged moth. Attracts birds, hummingbirds, butterflies.
Eve’s Necklace
Photos: whole – Sally & Andy Wasowski, blossom – Harry T. Cliffe
Part shade, Dry soil, sandy or clay soil, moderate deer resistance.
Flowers and seeds are poisonous.
Nectar source for bees, and other insects.
Native habitat roadsides, plains, prairies, open woods.
Striking blossoms Mar - May, best grown alone as accent tree. 15-30 ft. tall.
Flameleaf Sumac
Photos: whole – Sally & Andy Wasowski, blossom – Mrs. W.D. Bransford
Full sun, low water use and drought tolerant, dry soil, low deer resistance.
Deciduous, can grow to 20-25 ft tall, grows in thickets. Deer browse the twigs.
Fruits are edible. Important as a source of food for wildlife. Attracts birds.
Blooms July-August.
Highly ornamental due to colorful leaves in fall before dropping.
Goldenball Leadtree

Photos: Sally & Andy Wasowski

Evergreen, Part shade, low water use, dry soil, minimal deer resistance.

Blooms April – October. Native habitat rocky limestone areas and dry canyons in Edwards Plateau.

12-25 feet tall. Blooms after rain.

Huisache is similar but has thorns and is more deer resistant.
Mexican Buckeye

Photos: fruit = Bob Kamper, flower – Joseph Marcus whole tree – Kathy McCormack

Low water use – drought resistant, full sun or part shade, dry soil, highly deer resistant.
8-12 ft tall, can reach 30 ft. Blooms Mar-Jun.

Seed pods are poisonous. But seeds are food source for birds and small mammals. Nectar source for butterflies. Larval host for Henry’s Elfin butterfly.
Texas Mountain Laurel aka Mescal bean
Photos: Bob Kamper
Evergreen, low to medium water use, drought tolerant, full sun to partial shade, dry to moist soil, highly deer resistant.
Small tree 10-20 ft. tall, slow growing. Prefers well drained limestone soils. Attracts butterflies and other nectar eating insects.
Attractive red seed pods are toxic, used by natives as a narcotic in the past.
Texas Persimmon
Photo credit: whole tree - Sally & Andy Wasowski, details - Bob Kamper
Larval host for Gray Hairstreak butterfly and Henry’s Elfin butterfly
Low water use, drought tolerant. Full sun to partial shade. Dry, well drained limestone soils. Moderate deer resistance.
Usually 10-15 ft tall, can grow to 35 ft in southern range.
Fruit edible, attracts wildlife. Flowers attract butterflies.
Texas Redbud

Photo: whole – David Northington, detail – Joseph Marcus

Low to medium water use – drought tolerant. Full sun or partial shade. Well drained limestone soils. Moderate deer resistance.

Larval source for Henry’s Elfin butterfly.

Nectar attracts butterflies, bees and nectar seeking insects. Seeds are eaten by birds.

Small tree 10-20 ft, blooms Mar-April
Yaupon

Photo – whole - Bob Kamper, detail – Joseph Marcus

Evergreen. Low water use, Full sun, partial shade, full shade ok. Tolerates dry to moist soil, tolerates drought and poor drainage. Produces berries with at least 6 hours of sun daily. Moderate deer resistance.

Larval host for Henry’s Elfin butterfly.

Flowers attract nectar seeking insects. Fruits eaten by birds and mammals.

Blooms in April and May.
Shrubs, Perennials and Groundcovers

- Autumn Sage *Salvia greggii*
- Cenizo *Leucophyllum frutescens*
- Flame Acanthus *Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii*
- Gayfeather *Liatris mucronata*
- Silver Ponyfoot *Dichondra argentea*
- Gregg Dalea *Dalea greggii*
- Lindheimer Muhly *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*
- Turk's Cap *Malvaviscus arboreus*
- Yellowbells *Tecoma stans*
- Passionflower *Passiflora spp.*

Just a few of many drought tolerant native shrubs, herbs, grasses and vines. These should be easy to find and easy to grow.
Named after Josiah Gregg, who helped blaze the Santa Fe Trail.

Autumn Sage, *Salvia greggii*

Autumn sage is a soft, mounding shrub normally 2-3 ft. tall,
will bloom most heavily either in spring or in fall, with scattered blooming in
summer and until frost.

Low water use, prefers dry well drained soil, highly drought tolerant.
High deer resistance. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
Leucophyllum frutescens
Ceriniza

Makes a good hedge…provides cover for birds…
CAN be squared off but natural shape is just fine when trimmed lightly.
Can bloom at any time during the year, often after summer rains, hence common name barometer bush
Low water, sun or part shade. Prefers rocky, well drained, dry soil.
Tall shrub up to 5-8 feet tall, 4-6 ft circumference.
**Larval Host:** Theona Checkerspot, Calleta silkmoth . Deer resistance High.
Attracts butterflies and other nectar feeding insects.
These long tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.
3-5 ft, deciduous shrub. Blooms June – October.
Drought resistant, low water use. Sun or partial shade.
Adapts to wide variety of soils, dry to moist.
**Larval Host:** Janais Patch, Texan Crescentspot
Cut back in winter for new growth.
1-3 ft perennial grows in clumps and reseeds readily.
Attracts butterflies to feed on nectar.
Pink or purple spires bloom August to December. Deciduous.
Low growing perennial groundcover 3-4 inches high.
Silver-green foliage.
Medium water use. Dry soil. Full sun or part shade.
Small white blooms May-August. Creates a dense mat as a groundcover.

Low water use – dry soil – Sun or part shade. Does well in granitic soil, with little organic matter.

Deer resistance moderate. Attracts nectar drinking insects, including butterflies. Is larval host for several butterflies.
Can be planted as mass or accent plant. Example of natural planting in a dry stream bed.


Medium water use. Full sun. dry to moist soil.

High deer resistance.
Also a hummingbird attractor
Perennial deciduous shrub from 2 to 9 ft tall. Spreading, 2-3 ft in diameter.
Blooms May – November.
Part shade to shade. Medium water use and dry to moist soil. Drought tolerant.
Prefers well drained moist woodland soils.
Used for Nectar-hummingbirds, Nectar-butterflies, Nectar-moths, Nectar-insects,
Fruit-birds, Fruit-mammals
Deer resistance moderate.
Also a hummingbird attractor

*Tecoma stans* var. *angustata*, which is shorter, more drought-tolerant, and more cold-tolerant than some of the tropical varieties sold in nurseries.

Perennial deciduous shrub 3-6 ft. tall. Striking blossoms from April through November.

Low water use, dry soil. Sun or partial shade.

**Larval Host:** Dogface butterfly

Moderate deer resistance

Annual vine 2-6 ft. Blooms from May – October.
Passiflora foetida is shown here, but all varieties of passiflora generally similar.
May not be native to your specific region, so be careful in choosing.
Plant parts are edible and may be used to make tea.

**Larval Host:** Gulf Fritillary butterfly

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate
Sources and Resources

- Native Plant Information source: http://www.wildflower.org/explore
- Thanks to Dian Sherrill, Mitch Mitchamore, Sue Wiseman, Kathy McCormack and Vicky Husband for their input towards this presentation.
- Photo credits: Bob Kamper, except as noted.
- Additional Photo source: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Collection.
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Thank you!