Ten Basic Native Plants for the Central Texas Garden
Shrubs

• Cenizo / *Leucophyllum frutescens*
• Autumn Sage / *Salvia greggii*
• Flame Acanthus / *Anisacanthus quadrifidus*
• Turk’s Cap / *Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii*
Leucophyllum frutescens
Cenizo
Purple Sage, Barometer Bush, Texas Sage

*Leucophylum frutescens* (Berl.)
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Silvery-gray leafed shrub to 5-8 ft. height, 4-6 ft. in width.
Pink and purple blooms are dependent on rainfall. Several together can make a good screen or hedge and provide cover for birds in the wildscape garden.

**Attracts:**
Butterflies
Birds

**Water use:**
Low

**Light:**
Sun, Part shade

**Soil moisture:**
Dry

**Deer resistance:**
High

**Warnings – none**

**Blooms:**
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
Salvia greggii
**Autumn Sage**

*Cherry Sage*

*Salvia greggii*

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Perennial shrub 1-3 ft. high. Red, pink or white blooms. Should be trimmed after first bloom and again later in summer to extend bloom season and maintain bushy shape. May be used as a border or low hedge.

**Water use:**

Low

**Light:**

Sun

**Soil moisture:**

Dry

**Deer resistance:**

High

**Attracts:**

Hummingbirds

Butterflies

Bees

**Blooms:**

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![Image of Autumn Sage]

![Image of Autumn Sage blooms]

![Image of Sun]

![Image of Flowers]

![Image of Bees]

![Image of Butterflies]

![Image of Hummingbirds]

![Image of Autumn Sage flowers]

![Image of Autumn Sage foliage]
Anisacanthus quadrifidus
Flame acanthus

Hummingbird bush

*Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii*

Acanthaceae (Acanthus Family)

Perennial shrub to 3 ft. high. Bright red blooms in summer and fall attract hummingbirds. Deciduous, may be cut back in winter to maintain a bushy form and encourage more blooms. Native habitat is rocky banks and floodplains of streams.

**Water use:** Medium

**Light:** Sun, Part shade

**Soil moisture:** Moist

**Deer resistance:** High

**Attracts:**
Hummingbirds
Butterflies

**Blooms:**

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*no warnings*
Malvaviscus arboreus
Turk’s Cap

Wax mallow, Red mallow, Drummond wax-mallow, Mexican apple, Texas-mallow, Manzanilla

*Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii*

Malvaceae (Mallow Family)

Perennial shrub, deciduous. Generally 2-3 ft. high and wide, can grow taller. Does well in shady situations. Can be pruned to keep low as a ground cover. Bright red hibiscus like flowers make it a good ornamental.

**Attracts:**
Hummingbirds
Butterflies

**Water use:**
Medium

**Light:**
Sun, Part shade

**Soil moisture:**
Dry

**Deer resistance:**
Moderate

no warnings – fruit is edible.

**Blooms:**

- JAN
- FEB
- MAR
- APR
- MAY
- JUN
- JUL
- AUG
- SEP
- OCT
- NOV
- DEC
Perennials

• Gregg’s Mistflower / *Conoclinium greggii*
• Blackfoot Daisy / *Melampodium Leucanthum*
• Chile Pequin / *Capsicum annuum*
• Columbine / *Aquilegia canadensis*
Conoclinium greggii
**Gregg’s Mistflower**

*Palmleaf thoroughwort, Palm-leaf mistflower*

*Conoclinium greggii*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

- Perennial up to 2 ft in height. Blue-purple flowers in puffy clusters attract butterflies, especially Queen. Will spread easily by roots and makes a good groundcover.

**Attracts:**
- Butterflies
- Queen
- Monarch (during migration)

**Light:**
- Sun, Part shade

**Soil moisture:**
- Dry, Moist

**Water use:**
- Medium

**Deer resistance:**
- None

**Blooms:**
- JAN, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUN, JUL, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, DEC

**Warnings – none listed.**
Melampodium Leucanthum

Photo credit: Joseph Marcus
Blackfoot Daisy

Plains Blackfoot, Rock Daisy

*Melampodium Leucanthum*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Blackfoot Daisy forms small mounds, well suited for rock gardens. Tolerates heat and drought. Requires good drainage. Cut back in winter after blooming season. Perennial, lives longer under natural soil and water conditions, though thrives in cultivated and watered garden.

**Water use:**
Low

**Light:**
Sun, Part shade

**Soil moisture:**
Dry

**Deer resistance:**
High

**Attracts:**
Butterflies
Bees

**Blooms:**

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No warnings
Capsicum annuum

Photo credit: Sally & Andy Wasowski
Chile Pequin
Cayenne pepper, Chile Piquin

*Capsicum annuum var. glabriusculum*
Solanaceae (potato Family)

Small mounded sub shrub 1½ to 3 feet high. Small white flowers followed by green peppers that turn bright red when ripe. Deciduous during winter – cut back dead wood for new growth throughout the year. Fruit is favored by birds and will be propagated in the wildscape garden naturally.

**Water use:**
Low, moderate

**Light:**
Sun, part shade, shade

**Soil moisture:**
Dry, moist

**Deer resistance:**
High

**Attracts:**
Songbirds
Bees
Salsa chefs

Peppers are very hot – wash hands after contact

**Blooms:**

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Aquilegia canadensis

Photo credit: Joseph Marcus
Columbine
Red Columbine, Wild Columbine
*Aquilegia canadensis* L.
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

Perennial with showy flowers on stalks up to 2 ft. high. Foliage is attractive as well during non-blooming season. Other varieties have yellow or pink blooms. Propagates itself. Does well in the shade and well drained soil.

Similar to *Aquilegia formosa*.

**Attracts:**
Hummingbirds
Butterflies

**Water use:**
Low, Medium

**Light:**
Sun, Part shade, shade

**Soil moisture:**
Dry, Moist

**Deer resistance:**
Moderate

**Blooms:**
JAN  FEB  MAR  APR  MAY  JUN  JUL  AUG  SEP  OCT  NOV  DEC

- no warnings
Annuals

- Texas Bluebonnet / *Lupinus texensis*
- Winecup / *Callirhoe leiocarpa*
Lupinus texensis
### Texas Bluebonnet

**Bluebonnet, Texas lupine, Buffalo clover**

*Lupinus texensis*

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

- Herb with blue and white blooms. Best as a mass planting. State flower of Texas used for roadside plantings.
- Rosette in fall overwinters and produces blooms the spring.

#### Water use:
- **Low**

#### Light:
- **Sun**

#### Soil moisture:
- **Dry**

#### Deer resistance:
- **Moderate**

- **Attracts:**
  - Butterflies
  - Bees

**Warnings** – plants and especially seeds can be toxic to humans.

#### Blooms:

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Photo credit: Bob Kamper, Sally & Andy Wasowski
Callirhoe leiocarpa

Photo credit: Mrs. W.D. Bransford
Wine Cup - annual
Tall Poppy-Mallow, Tall poppymallow,
*Callirhoe leiocarpa*
Malvaceae (Mallow Family)

Perennial, grows close to ground up to 1-1 ½ ft. high. Blooms are purple, red, sometimes white.

**Water use:**
Low

**Light:**
Part shade

**Soil moisture:**
Moist

**Deer resistance:**
Minimal

**Attracts:**
Bees

**Blooms:**

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Sources and Resources

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