Texas Natives for Round Rock and Williamson County

Home landscaping for
• low maintenance,
• low water use, and
• high aesthetics

Authored by Randy Kay Pensabene & Robert J Kamper
Who’s Here Today?

• Name

• How long have you been here
  (in Central Texas – Williamson County area)?

• What experience do you have with Native Plants?
  (of any area)

• What 1 to 3 things do you hope to get out of today’s session?
  Examples:
  • General knowledge and ideas
  • Specific plants for a sunny/shady area
  • Plants to attract butterflies/hummingbirds
Topics

- Why Native Plants?
- Finding information on Texas Native plants (using the NPSOT-Wilco website)
  - LBJ-WFC @ UT / NPIN DB (database)
  - Texas A&M – Benny Simpson DBs
  - USDA Plants DB
  - City of Austin Grow Green Guide DB
- Plant Profiles (including Pretty Pictures)
WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

Native plants have evolved in geological (soil) regions in tandem with other lifeforms (invertebrates and vertebrates) so that they are often closely inter-related, depending on each other for specific needs such as food, shelter, and propagation.
Why Native Plants?

• **Survive & thrive** in local climate conditions & soils

• Most require **less water & maintenance** once established

• **Do not need** chemical fertilizers & pesticides to thrive

• Help to **maintain Biodiversity**: the region’s variety of flora & fauna

• **Preserve integrity** of our nature areas
What is a Native Plant?

- **‘Native Texas plant’**
  - Refers to political borders – current State of Texas in USA

- **‘Indigenous’**
  - Occurring naturally in a particular region or environment (e.g., Rio Grande Valley)

- **‘Adapted’**
  - Not native to a region, but can survive
  - Due to lack of natural controls, can become INVASIVE and be harmful to native plants or wildlife
  - Examples: Crepe Myrtle, Nandina, Ligustrum, Water Hyacinth

- **Best results with native & indigenous**
  - Require the least effort
  - Support our native & indigenous fauna
Less Maintenance, No Pesticides: Let Those Caterpillars Live and thrive!

- Avoid pesticides
- Let the leaves overwinter
- Provide the native plants they evolved with
Native Plants Require Less Water (in general)
Texas climate – Drought, interrupted by Floods

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?TX
Current Texas Drought Situation Following 2016 Spring Floods

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

July 26, 2016
(Released Thursday, Jul. 28, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>None</th>
<th>D0-D4</th>
<th>D1-D4</th>
<th>D2-D4</th>
<th>D3-D4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>83.03</td>
<td>36.97</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>0.18</td>
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<td>Last Week</td>
<td>86.98</td>
<td>13.12</td>
<td>1.66</td>
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<td>3 Months Ago</td>
<td>86.91</td>
<td>13.09</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Year</td>
<td>95.49</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>One Year Ago</td>
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<td>13.35</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intensity:
- Yellow: Abnormally Dry
- Red: D3 Extreme Drought
- Brown: D4 Exceptional Drought
- Orange: D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
Major Ecoregions of Williamson County

Source: Williamson County Regional Habitat conservation Plan
http://www.wilco.org/Portals/0/Departments/Conservation_Foundation/WilCo_RHCP_08-08-08_Opt.pdf accessed April 6, 2015 6:02 a.m. CDT
Soils and Topography of Williamson County

East of IH-35 (in general)
• Location:
  • East of the Balcones Escarpment (a.k.a. Balcones Fault)
• Soil: Blackland Prairie
  • rich, black, fertile, clay-like soils
• Land uses:
  • agriculture, some removed from agriculture
  • cotton and & other crops,
  • Some cattle.

West of IH-35 (in general)
• Location:
  • West of Balcones Escarpment - "upland" Texas Hill Country,
• Soil:
  • rocky terrain thin layers of soil lying on top of limestone
• Land use:
  • Some ranching –
  • mostly residential development because of the rolling terrain, vistas, hardwood trees, abundant wildlife, and rivers and streams..
• Environment:
  • Porous limestone rock lets water slowly percolate down to replenish the underground Edwards Aquifer.
  • Development restrictions
  • endangered species protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service – notably Golden Cheeked Warbler in the Balcones Canyonlands Wildlife Refuge.
The Texas Blackland Prairies Ecoregion

Source: United States Geological Survey (USGS) Land Cover Trends Project
Finding Native Plants For Williamson County

http://npsot.org/wp/wilco

Williamson County Chapter (NPSOT-Wilco)
Native Plant Society of Texas

• Launch your web browser
• Go to the NPSOT-Wilco home page
Finding Native Plants For Williamson County

• Scroll down towards the bottom of the page
• Locate “Find or Identify native plants”
• On the sidebar to the right will be a list of links:
  • Choose one of the links to follow
    • [Wildflower Center Native Plant Information Network at UT](#)
    • [Benny Simpson databases at TAMU](#)
    • [Plant Guidance by Texas Eco-regions at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildscapes program](#)
    • [USDA Plants database](#)
    • [City of Austin Grow Green database](#)
Wildflower Center website landing page
Land on Combination Search Texas – Central page
On Left Sidebar, scroll down to Narrow Your Search
Click on the checkbox for Dry – Soil moisture.
Results in 112 plant profiles for Central Texas Plants
You need to decide if plant is right for your location
- Land on the Special Collections page
- Click on Texas - Central
Click on Recommended Species Links
**Salvia greggii**

**Salvia greggii** A. Gray  
**Autumn sage, Cherry sage, Gregg salvia**  
**Lamiaceae** (Mint Family)  
**Synonym(s):**  
**USDA Symbol: SAGR4**  
**USDA Native Status: L48 (N)**

Autumn sage is a soft, mounding shrub normally 2-3 ft. tall, with small, mintly aromatic green leaves that are evergreen in warmer climates. The flowers are borne on racemes from spring to frost and can be red, pink, purple, orange, or white. Its natural range is from south-central and west Texas south to San Luis Potosi in Mexico, mostly on rocky slopes.

A popular landscape plant in the Southwest, Autumn sage is delightful to use as a small, ornamental, flowering shrub in a perennial bed or as a low hedge. Its aromatic foliage quickens the senses and its flowers are sure to draw hummingbirds. The color of its blossoms in the wild is usually red but varies from area to area, with some regions dominated by red-blooming plants, others pink, others orange, others purple, and others white, plus many shades in between. The color range has been further enhanced by breeding, resulting in many cultivars over the years. It is disease and insect free and drought tolerant, and once established, should not be fertilized.

The species name “greggii” is in honor of Josiah Gregg, (1806-1850). He was born in Overton County, Tennessee. In the summer of 1841 and again in the winter of 1841-42 he traveled through Texas, up the Red River valley, and later from Galveston to Austin and by way of Nacogdoches to Arkansas. He took note of Texas geology, trees, prevalent attitudes, and politics. At the same time, Gregg began compiling his travel notes into a readable manuscript. His “Commerce of the Prairies”, which came out in two volumes in 1844, was an immediate success. In 1848 he joined a botanical expedition to western Mexico and California, during which he corresponded with and sent specimens to the eminent botanist George Engelmann in St. Louis. Subsequently, the American Botanical Society added the Latin name “greggii” in his honor to twenty-three species of plants. Gregg died on February 25, 1850, as a result of a fall from his horse.
NPIN Plant Profile Information

**PLANT CHARACTERISTICS**
- **Duration:** Perennial
- **Habit:** Shrub
- **Leaf Retention:** Evergreen, Semi-evergreen
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Leaf Complexity:** Simple
- **Leaf Shape:** Elliptic, Obovate
- **Leaf Pubescence:** Glabrous
- **Leaf Margin:** Entire
- **Leaf Apex:** Obtuse
- **Leaf Texture:** Smooth
- **Breeding System:** Flowers Unisexual, Monoecious
- **Inflorescence:** Raceme
- **Size Notes:** Normally 2-3 ft but can reach 5 ft
- **Leaf:** Green
- **Flower:** Flowers 1 inch long
- **Fruit:**
- **Size Class:** 1-3 ft, 3-6 ft.

**DISTRIBUTION**
- **USA:** TX
- **Native Distribution:** Central and west Texas south to San Luis Potosi in Mexico
- **Native Habitat:** Well-drained, rocky slopes, Usually in rocky soils in central, south, and west Texas.

**GROWING CONDITIONS**
- **Water Use:** Low
- **Light Requirement:** Sun
- **Soil Moisture:** Dry
- **Drought Tolerance:** High
- **Cold Tolerant:** yes
- **Heat Tolerant:** yes
- **Soil Description:** Well-drained, rocky soils, usually limestone of greater or lesser organic content. Also in sandy loams, clay loams, or silt loams. Also found on margins of floodplains
- **Conditions Comments:** Autumn sage must have a well-drained site and cannot take shrink-swell clay soils. Amendments to improve drainage and, if possible, plant on a slope. Though generally cold tolerant, will benefit from well drained conditions. Though some cultivars do well even in Oklahoma and Colorado, well outside of its natural range. Avoid planting near slopes.

**BLOOM INFORMATION**
- **Bloom Color:** White, Red, Pink, Orange, Purple
- **Bloom Time:** Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
- **Bloom Notes:** Depending on exposures, will bloom more heavily.

**BENEFIT**
- **Use Ornamental:** Valued for its nearly evergreen habit, its colorful, long-lasting, hummingbird-attracting flowers makes it useful as a low hedge
- **Use Wildlife:** Flowers attract bees and hummingbirds
- **Use Food:** As with many Salvia species, leaves can be used fresh or dried for seasonings and teas, and the flowers are edible
- **Conspicuous Flowers:** yes
- **Fragrant Flowers:** yes
- **Fragrant Foliage:** yes
- **Attracts:** Butterflies, Hummingbirds
- **Nectar Source:** yes
- **Deer Resistant:** High
Plant Guidance by Ecoregions

http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/
### Plants for Eco-Region 7 - the Edwards Plateau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Trees</strong></th>
<th><strong>Shrubs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Grasses</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pecan</td>
<td>American beauty-berry</td>
<td>Silver bluestem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarberry</td>
<td>Elbowbush</td>
<td>Canada Wildrye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black walnut</td>
<td>Lantana</td>
<td>Big muhly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau black cherry</td>
<td>Spicebush</td>
<td>Little bluestem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinkapin oak</td>
<td>Fragrant sumac</td>
<td>Indian grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas red oak</td>
<td>Autumn sage</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas persimmon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yaupon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Red mulberry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas pistachie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolina buckthorn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Big-toothed maple</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas redbud</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican plum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Succulents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red yucca</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Twist-leaf yucca</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Vines</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trumpet-creeper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coral honeysuckle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virginia creeper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow passionvine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain grape</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Wildflowers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Columbine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Butterfly weed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Englemann daisy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shrubby boneset</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turk’s cap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cedar sage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standing cypress</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brown-eyed Susan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greenthread</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Conifers**
  - Ashe juniper
  - Remote pinyon pine
  - Bald cypress

- **Grasses**
  - Silver bluestem
  - Canada Wildrye
  - Big muhly
  - Little bluestem
  - Indian grass
Ecoregion 4 – The Blackland Prairies

The fertile dark clay soils of the Blackland Prairies are some of the richest soils in the world.

Trees: Pecan, cedar elm, various oaks and hackberry with some mesquite in the south.

Dominant grass - Little bluestem. Big blue stem, Indiangrass, eastern gammagrass, switchgrass and side oats grama can also be found.

Annual rainfalls = 30 to 40 inches

Approximately 5000 acres of the original 12 million acres remaining as true prairie

Source:
http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/ecoregion_4.phtml
Accessed Friday April 10, 2015 3:47 pm CDT.
Native Plants of the Blackland Prairies

**Trees**
- Pecan
- Black Walnut
- Sycamore
- Eastern Cottonwood
- Burr Oak
- Shumard Red Oak
- American Elm
- Cedar Elm
- Common Persimmon
- Deciduous Holly
- Red Mulberry
- Carolina Buckthorn
- Huisache
- Red Buckeye
- Eastern Redbud
- Mexican Plum
- American Elderberry
- Eastern Red Cedar

**Shrubs**
- American Beauty-berry
- Buttonbush
- Fragrant Sumac
- Autumn Sage

**Succulents**
- Pale-leaf Yucca

**Vines**
- Cross-vine
- Trumpet Creeper
- Coral Honeysuckle
- Virginia Creeper
- May Pop
- Prairie Rose

**Grasses**
- Big Bluestem
- Sideoats grama
- Canada Wildrye
- Big Muhly
- Indiangrass
- Little Bluestem

**Wildflowers**
- Columbine
- Purple Coneflower
- Coralbean
- Cardinal Flower
- Turk’s Cap
- Scarlet Sage
- Indian Paintbrush
- Texas Bluebonnet
- Brown-eyed Susan
Benny Simpson databases - Shrubs

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/
Benny Simpson Databases – Shrubs indices

Index by common names

Index by scientific names

Alphabetical Index to Common Names

Alphabetical Index to Scientific Names
Texas Lantana, Lantana

*Lantana urticoides (L. horrida)*

Verbenaceae

A stalwart in Texas landscapes, Texas lantana grows in various types of soils throughout the state, most abundantly along the coast, and also in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Mexico. It is a low, spreading shrub with rough and aromatic leaves. It grows best in poor, sandy, gravelly soils in hot, dry areas, in full sun or light shade. In all but the very southern part of the state its branches die back in winter and emerge again in spring. Where it does not die back, its stems should be cut back after frost and periodically during the growing season, both to keep it compact and because it flowers on new wood. Lantana flowers profusely with the start of hot weather, in mid- to late summer, with small red, yellow and orange flowers clumped together in clusters. Although its leaves are poisonous to livestock and humans, its nectar is a favorite of butterflies, and many birds eat the fruit. Lantana is the choice for those sites in full sun that are neglected or too far from the hose. Once established, it takes virtually no care except trimming back, and flowers consistently from mid-summer on, always attracting butterflies.

**Plant Habit or Use:** small shrub

medium shrub

**Exposure:** sun

partial sun

**Flower Color:** yellow, orange, red
Flame Acanthus, Wright Anisacanth, Hummingbird Bush, Muicle
*Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii* (A. wrightii)

Acanthaceae

From midsummer through frost, flame acanthus is covered with long, slender, red or orange blooms that hummingbirds love. It is a drought tolerant, heat-loving small shrub that works as well in the perennial border as it does as an informal hedge or specimen plant. The bark is light and flaky and makes an interesting winter and early spring accent. Flame acanthus is late to come out in the spring, and benefits from periodic shearing or even severe cutting back in early spring. It grows in the Edwards Plateau on rocky banks and floodplains, but is adaptable to sunny, well-drained exposures throughout the state, even Houston. It is a good choice for sites with poor soils and reflected heat - although supplemental water in dry summer months will encourage flowering. It is hardy throughout zone 8, and root hardy to zone 7.

**Plant Habit or Use:** small shrub

**Exposure:** sun

**Flower Color:** red to orange

**Blooming Period:** summer

**Fruit Characteristics:** small capsule
USDA Plants database

http://plants.usda.gov/java/

- Useful to determine native status
- Spotlights – new maps images
Results for Common Name = prairie rose
4 records returned

Click on an accepted name below to view its PLANTS Profile with all synonyms, synonymized plant lists. Synonyms are indented beneath accepted counterpart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROAR3</td>
<td>Rosa arkansana Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROARA</td>
<td>Rosa arkansana Porter var. arkansana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROARS</td>
<td>Rosa arkansana Porter var. suffulta (Greene) Cockerell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROFO</td>
<td>Rosa foliolosa Nutt. ex Torr. &amp; A. Gray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USDA Plants Database – Prairie Rose results

General Information
- Symbol: ROAR3
- Group: Dicot
- Family: Rosaceae
- Duration: Perennial
- Growth Habit: Subshrub
- Native Status: CAN N L40 N

Data Source and Documentation
USDA Documentation and Plants Guides

Documentation & Literature sources:

- Nebraska.
- TEX. Specimen at University of Texas, Austin, Texas.
- OK. Literature

Plant Guides - For example:

Finding Natives Using The Grow Green Guide

http://www.austintexas.gov/department/grow-green/plant-guide
Rationale for including invasive exotics

Our native landscape is the inspiration for this guide to earthwise plant choices for Austin area gardens.

The Grow Green plant list was created to help you select beautiful native and adapted plants which are naturally drought tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases.

The less watering, fertilizing, and chemical control required in your yard, the more you contribute to the conservation and preservation of our precious water resources - our streams, lakes, and aquifers.

Native plants belong here; they thrive with minimal care and provide habitat for local wildlife.

We have chosen plants you should be able to find without too much trouble.

Some non-natives are also recommended, for special situations, like shady areas, poorly drained soils or for their deer resistance. Many plants were included simply for their great beauty.

Some people move to Austin and try to surround themselves with plants they are familiar with from their past homes. These plants are often poorly suited to our climate and soils. By choosing native and adapted plants, you become more knowledgeable about, more aware of, and more connected to the land of Central Texas.

Incorporate them into your landscape for a garden style with a sense of place. We hope you enjoy using this guide to recreate Austin's natural beauty in your own back yard.

Limit Search On *Grow Green* to Native Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Native To
- Blackland Prairie
- Both Blackland Prairie & Edwards Plateau
- Edwards Plateau
- Hybrid w/ native parentage
- Native to Texas (not part of Edwards Plateau or Blackland Prairie)

### Evergreen/Deciduous
- Deciduous
- Evergreen
- Semi-Evergreen

### Light
- Shade
- Sun
- Sun/Part Shade

### Seasonal Feature
- Dark
- Flower
- Foliation
- Fruit

### Water Needs
- Very Low
- Low
- Medium
- High

### Attracts Wildlife
- Any

### Plant Type
- Grasses (Ornamental & Prairie)
- Grasses (Turf)
- Groundcovers
- Perennials
- Roses
- Shrubs
- Trees (Large)
- Trees (Small)/Large Shrubs

### Plant Color
- Blue
- Gold
- Green
- Grey
- Multi
- Orange
- Pink
- Purple
Results of Search For Natives common to Blackland Prairies and Edwards Plateau - p. 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Plant Images</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluestem, Little</td>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>Grasses (Ornamental &amp; Prairie)</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye, Red</td>
<td>Aesculus pavia</td>
<td>Trees (Small)/Large Shrubs</td>
<td>Shade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Buckthorn</td>
<td>Frangula caroliniana</td>
<td>Trees (Small)/Large Shrubs</td>
<td>Sun/Part Shade</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lantana, Texas</td>
<td>Lantana urticoides</td>
<td>Perennials</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Chinquapin</td>
<td>Quercus muehlenbergii</td>
<td>Trees (Large)</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results of Search For Natives common to Blackland Prairies and Edwards Plateau - p. 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Habitats Description</th>
<th>Sunlight Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Southern Live</td>
<td>Quercus virginiana</td>
<td>Trees (Large)</td>
<td>Sun/Part Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum, Mexican</td>
<td>Prunus mexicana</td>
<td>Trees (Small)/Large Shrubs</td>
<td>Sun/Part Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primrose, Missouri</td>
<td>Oenothera macrocarpa</td>
<td>Perennials</td>
<td>Sun/Part Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roughleaf Dogwood</td>
<td>Cornus crummondii</td>
<td>Trees (Small)/Large Shrubs</td>
<td>Sun/Part Shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage, Mealy Blue</td>
<td>Salvia farinacea</td>
<td>Perennials</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our native landscape is the inspiration for this guide to earthwise plant choices for Austin area gardens. The Grow Green plant list was created to help you select beautiful native and adapted plants which are naturally drought tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases. The less watering, fertilizing, and chemical control required in your yard, the more you contribute to the conservation and preservation of our precious water resources.
Recommended Plants

Native trees
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 *Sophora secundiflora*
- Texas persimmon *Diospyros texana*
- Texas redbud *Cercis canadensis var. texensis*
- Yaupon holly *Ilex vomitoria*
Bauhinia lunarioides
Anacacho Orchid Tree
Anacacho Orchid Tree
(Bauhinia lunarioides)

- 6-12 ft. Shrub or Small Tree
- LOW Water & Fragrant Blooms
- Butterflies, Bees, Moths
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Western Central Texas
Chilopsis linearis
Desert Willow

Sally & Andy Wasowski
Styphnolobium affine
Eve’s Necklace
Rhus lanceolata
Flameleaf Sumac
Leucaena retusa
Goldenball Leadtree
Goldenball Leadtree

(*Leucaena retusa*)

- 12-15 ft. Shrub/Tree
- LOW Water
- Fragrant Blooms, Nectar
- Minimal Deer Resistance
- Trans-Pecos through Edwards Plateau
Ungnadia speciosa
Mexican Buckeye
Mexican Buckeye
(Ungnadia speciosa)

- 8-12 ft. H/W Shrub
- LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Central & West Texas
Sophora secundiflora
Texas Mountain Laurel
Diospyros texana
Texas Persimmon
Cercis canadensis var. texensis
Texas Redbud
Yaupon Holly
(Ilex vomitoria)

- 12-25 ft. EVERGREEN Shrub/Tree
- LOW Water
- Birds, Butterflies, Nectar Insects, Nesting site
- HIGH Deer Resistance
- East & Southeast Texas

Weeping Yaupon

Dwarf: No Berries, Don’t have to hedge

Late winter food source for many bird
Recommended Plants

Shrubs, Perennials, and Ground covers
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 arboreous*
- Yellowbells *Tecoma stans*
- Passionflower *Passiflora spp.*
Texas Lantana
(Lantana urticoides)

- 2-6 ft. H/W Shrub
- VERY LOW Water
- Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Bees, Songbirds
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Throughout Texas, except in Northwest
Autumn Sage
(Salvia greggii)

- 2-3 ft. H/W Shrub
- LOW Water
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Hummingbirds, Bees, Butterflies
- Trans-Pecos through Edwards Plateau
Leucophyllum frutescens
Cenizo
Lynn’s Everblooming Sage
(leucophyllum frutescens)

- 4-5 ft. H/W Dense, Well Rounded
- VERY LOW Water
- Birds, Butterflies, Nectar Insects
- HIGH Deer Resistance
- Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau & South Texas

TEXAS SUPERSTAR! Texas AgriLife Extension Service & Texas AgriLife Research horticulturists:

- Azalea-like lilac blue flowers are some of the largest and most attractive blooms of any Texas sage on the market.
- Reliable and continuous profusion of flower displayed throughout much of the year.
Anisacanthus quadrifidus
Flame Acanthus
Flame Acanthus
(Anisacanthus quadrifidus v. wrightii)
• 3-5 ft. H/W Subshrub
• VERY LOW water
• Hummingbirds, Butterflies
• HIGH Deer resistance
• Edwards Plateau

Devil’s Shoestring
(Nolina lindheimeriana)
• 1-3 ft. H/W
EVERGREEN
• VERY LOW water
• HIGH Deer resistance
• Edwards Plateau
Liatris mucronata
Gayfeather
Groundcovers

- **Woolly Stemodia** (Stemodia lanata)
- **Silver Ponyfoot** (Dichondra argentea)
- **Frogfruit** (Phyla nodiflora)
- **Gregg’s Dalea** (Dalea greggii)
- **Straggler Daisy** (Calyptocarpus vialis)

M Lytle
S&A Wasowski
JA Marcus
Dalea greggii
Gregg Dalea
Buttonbush
(Cephalanthus occidentalis)
• 6-12 ft. H/W Irregular Shrub
• HIGH Water
• Butterflies, Bees, Songbirds
• HIGH Deer resistance
• Wet Areas throughout Texas

Gregg’s Dalea
(Dalea greggii)
• 4-9 in. Trailing Sub-shrub
• LOW Water
• Butterfly Nectar Source
• Moderate Deer resistance
• Trans-Pecos
Dichondra argentea
Silver Ponyfoot
Muhlenbergia Lindheimera
Lindheimer Muhly
Malvaviscus arboreus
Turk’s Cap
West Texas
Esperanza/Yellow Bells
(*Tecoma stans v. angustata*)

- 3-4 ft. H/W Shrub
- Smaller, heartier ‘Yellow Bells’
- LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees, Hummingbirds
- Moderate Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos
Passiflora spp.
Passionflower
Central Texas Gardening is EASY!

1) Right Plant
   – Native
   – Indigenous
   – Non-Invasive

2) Right Place
   – Group by water needs
   – Sun, shade, protection...
   – Room for mature size

3) Right Treatment
   – Do not fertilize
   – Do not over-water
   – Do not Hedge or Hack to ground
Agarita
(*Mahonia trifoliolata*)

- 3-6 ft. H/W
- VERY LOW Water
- Nectar Insects, Songbirds, Cover
- HIGH Deer Resistance
- Trans-Pecos to NW & SW Texas
Apache Plume  
*(Fallugia paradoxa)*

- 2-6 ft. H/W Shrub
- VERY LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees, Nesting Material
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos & Edwards Plateau
American Beautyberry

*(Callicarpa americana)*

- 3-5 ft. Understory Shrub
- Low/Medium Water
- Butterflies, Bees, Songbirds
- Moderate Deer Resistance
- East & Central Texas
Blackfoot Daisy
(Melampodium leucanthum)

- 1 ft. Ht. x 2 ft. Wide Mound
- VERY LOW Water
- Fragrant Blooms
- Butterflies, Insects, Bees
- Seeds - Granivorous Birds
- West & North Texas through Edwards Plateau
Carolina Jessamine
(*Gelsemium sempervirens*)

- 10-20 ft. EVERGREEN Vine
- Low/Medium Water
- Fragrant Blooms
- Hummingbirds, Butterflies
- Moderate Deer resistance
- Eastern edge Pineywoods & Gulf Prairies/Marshes
Hymenoxys/Four-nerve Daisy
(*Tetraneuris scaposa*)

- 1 ft. EVERGREEN Herb
- LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees, Nectar Source
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Panhandle, Central, West, South TX
Damianita
*(Chrysactinia mexicana)*

- 1-2 ft. Fragrant EVERGREEN Shrub
- VERY LOW Water
- Nectar Insects, Cover, Nesting
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos & Edwards Plateau
Datura

(Datura wrightii)

- 3-6 ft. H/W Perennial/Annual
- LOW Water
- Bees
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos, Cross Timbers & Prairies, Blackland Prairies
Golden Groundsel
(Packera obovata)

- EVERGREEN groundcover
- Low/Medium Water
- Butterfly & Bee Nectar Source
- HIGH Deer Resistance
- Edwards Plateau, North-Central TX
Kidneywood

*(Eysenhardtia texana)*

- 3-12 ft. Shrub/Tree
- Fragrant Blooms & Foliage
- VERY LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees
- Minimal Deer Resistance
- West, South & South Central Texas
Possumhaw Holly
(*Ilex decidua*)

- 15-30 ft. Shrub/Tree
- Medium Water
- Birds, Butterflies, Nectar Insects
- Moderate Deer Resistance
- East & Central Texas
Texas Milkweed  
(Asclepias texana)

- 1-2 ft. H/W Rounded Shrub
- LOW Water
- MONARCH BUTTERFLY LARVAL HOST
- Butterflies, Bees, Nectar Source
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Edwards Plateau & Trans-Pecos
**Gregg’s Mistflower**  
*(Conoclinium greggii)*
- 1.5-2 ft. Ht. Groundcover
- Medium Water
- Butterflies, Butterflies, Bees
- Minimal Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos, east to Edwards Plateau

**Blue Mistflower**  
*(Conoclinium coelestinum)*
- 2-3 ft. H/W Groundcover
- Medium Water
- Butterflies, Bees
- Minimal Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos east to Edwards Plateau
White Mistflower
(Ageratina havanensis)

- 2-6 ft. H/W Rounded Shrub
- LOW Water
- Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Moths
- Moderate Deer resistance
- Central Texas
Lindheimer’s/Velvet-leaf Senna
(Senna lindheimeriana)

- 3-6 ft. H/W Shrub
- VERY Low water
- Moderate Deer resist
- Birds, Bees, Butterflies
- Trans-Pecos & Edwards Plateau
Lindheimer’s/ Velvet-leaf Senna
(Senna lindheimeriana)
✓ 3-6 ft. H/W Shrub
✓ VERY Low water
✓ Moderate Deer resist
✓ Birds, Bees, Butterflies
✓ Trans-Pecos & Edwards Plateau
Twoleaf Senna

(Senna roemeriana)

- 1-2 ft. Ht. Shrub
- VERY LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees, Songbirds
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Central & West Texas
Pine Muhly

(Muhlenbergia dubia)

- 1-3 ft., Stiff/Upright
- VERY LOW Water
- Birds, Cover
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos
Texas Beargrass
(Nolina texana)

- 1.5-2.5 ft. H/W EVERGREEN Grass-like
- VERY LOW Water
- Butterflies, Nectar Insects, Cover
- HIGH Deer Resistance
- Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau & Blackland Prairies
Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye

(*Viguiera stenoloba*)

- 2-4 ft. H/W Shrub
- LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees, Birds
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos, Edwards Plateau, South TX
Simpson’s Rosinweed

(Silphium simpsonii)

- 4-6 ft., EVERGREEN rosette
- LOW Water
- Butterflies, Bees
- North-Central & East Texas
Standing Cypress  
(*Ipomopsis rubra*)

- 2-4 ft. Height Biennial
- EVERGREEN winter rosette
- LOW/Medium Water
- Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bees
- Minimal Deer resistance
- Central & East TX
Evergreen Sumac  
(*Rhus virens*)

- 8-10 ft. EVERGREEN Shrub/Tree
- Fragrant Blooms, Red Seeds
- VERY LOW Water
- Songbirds, Butterflies, Bees
- Moderate Deer resistance
- Trans-Pecos through Edwards Plateau
Zexmenia
*(Wedelia texana)*

- 2-3 ft. Shrub
- VERY LOW Water
- Butterflies, Nectar Source
- HIGH Deer resistance
- Edwards Plateau, Trans-Pecos & South Texas Plains
Woolly Beebrush
(Aloysia macrostachya)

- 6-12 ft. H/W Dense Shrub
- EVERGREEN most winters
- Fragrant Blooms March-Sept.
- Medium Water
- Butterflies, Nectar Insects
- HIGH Deer Resistance
- South Texas Plains
Sources and Resources

• Native Plant Information source: http://www.wildflower.org/explore
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Thank You!
May all your weeds be wildflowers!