TOPS iN Wilco:
NPSOT-Wilco’s
Best of & Favorites
in
Texas Native Plants for Williamson County

Survey results February 2017

Survey conducted by Robert J. Kamper, PhD. Presentation based on materials from Randy K. Pensabene, Robert J. Kamper and others.

Survey Topics

Q1. Plants for Novices
Q2. Spring Wildflower Locations
Q3. Favorite Parks For Native Plants
Q4., Q6. Plants for Edwards Plateau
Q5., Q7. Plants for Blackland Prairie
Q8. Sources For Native Plants
Q9. Landscape Designers
Q10. Landscaping Installations
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.

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.
Survey Results

• 10 question open-ended questionnaire
• 18 of 104 surveys responded:
  – 1 to say they had no input but would attend to hear the results
  – 1 well after Feb 28 “deadline” not included
  – A couple of surveys only answered 1 or 2 items
  – about 13 (12.5%) answered most items
  – Few answered landscaper item, result not included here
  – No claims are made for “scientific” reliability, validity, or rigor.

Q1: Best for Novices

No one can guarantee success, but with a reasonable amount of care and luck, these should result in a happy first season of planting Texas native plants in Williamson County:

- Autumn sage - (*Salvia greggii*)
  *Salvias* in general
- Four-nerve daisy - (*Tetraneuris scaposa*)
- Big muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*)
- Texas lantana (*Lantana urticoides*)
- Gregg’s mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*)
- Turkscap (*Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii*)
Central Texas Gardening is EASY!

- **Use the Right Plant**
  - Native
  - Indigenous
  - Non-Invasive

- **In the Right Place**
  - Group by water needs and soil type
  - Sun, shade, and protection
  - Room for mature size

- **Given the Right Treatment**
  - Do not fertilize
  - Do not over-water
  - Do not hedge or hack to ground

**Q2: Best Spring Wildflower Locations**

- Ronald Reagan Blvd. (N of 1431)
  - 1431 West of IH-35

- 2338 Georgetown to Andice

- 29 West of Liberty Hill to Jonah

- CR 100 (Perz Meadows)

- Texas Hill Country Trail/Willow City Loop/Fredericksburg (Outside of Williamson County)
1431 W of I35 to Ronald Reagan Blvd

2338 from Georgetown to Andice
Liberty Hill to Jonah

Perz Meadow - CR 100
Q3: Favorite Parks For Native Plants

• Berry Springs Park and Preserve
  – N of Georgetown off IH-35 and TX 130

• Southwest Williamson County Regional Park
  – N of FM 1431 on CR 175

• Brushy Creek Trail
  – Off Brushy Creek Road, between Sam Bass Road and Hwy 183.

• San Gabriel Park
  – In Georgetown off Austin Ave.

Berry Springs Park & Preserve
Southwest Williamson County Regional Park

Brushy Creek Regional Trail
San Gabriel Park & Trail

Q4, Q6: Best Plants for Edwards Plateau

- **Wildflowers**
  - **Standing Cypress** - (*Ipomopsis rubra*)
  - **Firewheel, Indian Blanket** - (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
  - **Prairie verbena** - (*Glandularia bipinnatifida var. bipinnatifida*)
  - **Cedar sage** - (*Salvia roemeriana*)
  - **Gayfeather** - (*Liatris sp.*)

- **Shrubs**
  - **Flame acanthus** - (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii*)
  - **Agarita** - (*Mahonia trifoliolata*)
Q5, Q7: Best Plants for Blackland Prairie

- **Wildflowers**
  - Gregg’s mistflower - (*Conoclinium greggii*)
  - Engelmann’s daisy - (*Engelmannia peristenia*)
  - Winecup - (*Callirhoe involucrata*)
  - Firewheel, Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

- **Shrubs**
  - American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
  - Texas lantana (*Lantana urticoides*)
  - Cenizo, Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)

- **Native grasses instead of shrubs (It’s “Prairie,” after all!)**
  - Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
  - Sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
  - Canada Wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*)
  - Big Muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*)
  - Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
  - Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Best Sources For Native Plants in Williamson County

- Wright’s Nursery, Briggs
- McIntire’s Garden Center, Georgetown
- Round Rock Gardens, Round Rock
- Farmers Nursery, Leander
- Snoopers Nursery, Round Rock
- Hill Country Water Gardens & Nursery, Cedar Park
- Red Barn Garden Center, Austin (inside Williamson County)
**Favorite Native Plant Sources**

- Georgetown Public Library - original design by Diane Sherrill; maintenance and design refresh by Randy Pensabene, Marilyn Perz, & Agnes Plutino and other volunteers.
- Williamson County AgriLife Extension Center
- Peoples’ Pharmacy parking lot - SW corner of RM 620 & Hwy 183
- Leander Government offices & C of C.
- Berry Springs “Gateway Garden”
- Pollinator Garden @ landfill
- Monument Cafe & El Monumento
- Native plants section of Brushy Creek MUD demo garden at community center, Great Oaks Drive.

**Best Landscaping Installations**

- Wright’s Nursery, 6040 FM 2257, Bragg.
- McIntire’s Garden Center, 303 Leander
- Round Rock Gardens, 901 Sam Bass Rd.
- Snooper’s Nursery & Garden Center, 850 Main St.
- Farmer’s Nursery, Inc., 1305 Leander Dr.
- Hill Country Water Gardens and Nurseries.
- Red Barn Garden Center, 12881 Pond Rd.
Plants for the Blackland Prairie

source: http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/

**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

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Plants for Eco-Region 7 - the Edwards Plateau

Source: http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ecoregions/ecoregion_7.phtml

**Trees**
- Pecan
- Sugarberry
- Black walnut
- Plateau black cherry
- Chinkapin oak
- Texas red oak
- Texas persimmon
- Yaupon
- Red mulberry
- Texas pistache
- Carolina buckthorn
- Big-toothed maple
- Texas redbud
- Mexican plum

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

**Shrubs**
- American beauty-berry
- Elbowbush
- Lantana
- Spicebush
- Fragrant sumac
- Autumn sage

**Succulents**
- Red yucca
- Twist-leaf yucca

**Vines**
- Trumpet creeper
- Coral honeysuckle
- Virginia creeper
- Yellow passionvine
- Mountain grape

**Grasses**
- Silver bluestem
- Canada Wildrye
- Big muhly
- Little bluestem
- Indian grass

**Wildflowers**
- Columbine
- Butterfly weed
- Engelmann daisy
- Shrubby boneset
- Turk's cap
- Cedar sage
- Standing cypress
- Brown-eyed Susan
- Greenthread