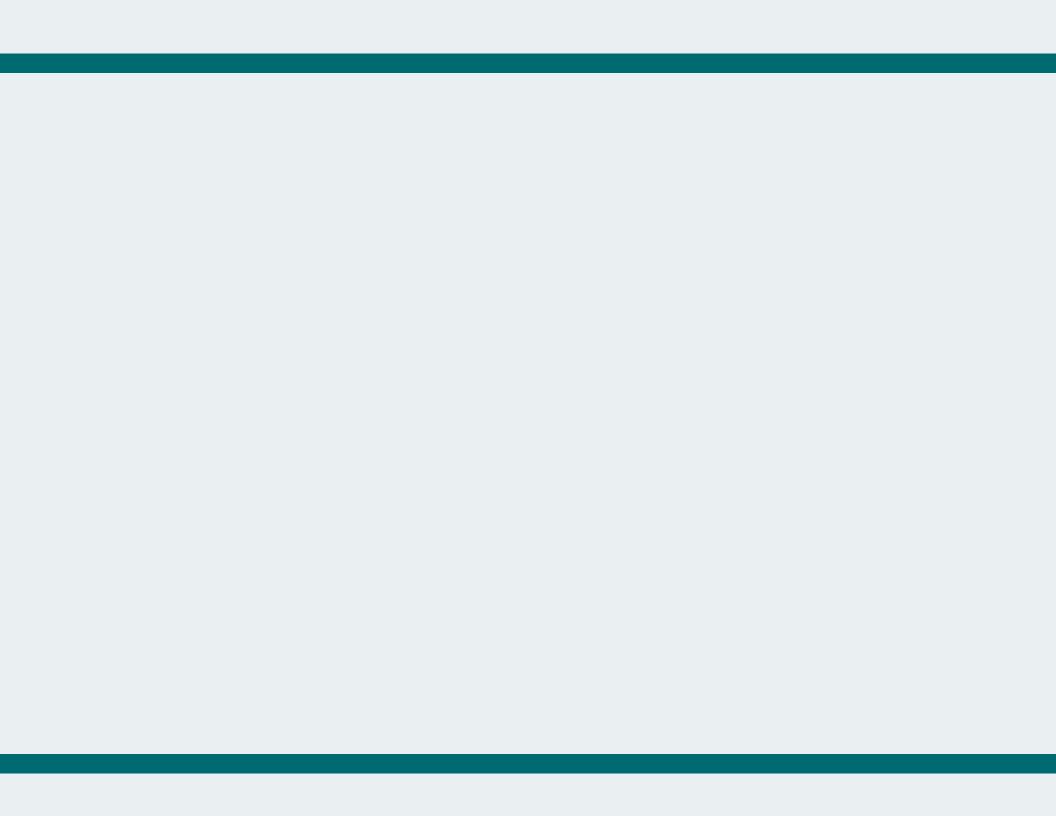


Native and Adapted

# Landscape Plants



an earthwise guide for Central Texas



# Native and Adapted Landscape Plants an earthwise guide for Central Texas

This guide was developed to help you in your efforts to protect and preserve our water resources.



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For more information on deer-resistant, fire-resistant, rain garden and poisonous plants, see page 52

To help you create your own landscape design, resources are available to Austin citizens at www.austintexas.gov/department/landscape-design

## Key

#### Native to:

- E Edwards Plateau, Rocky, Western Zone: shallow, limestone or caliche soil (generally on the west side of Austin)
- B Blackland Prairie, Eastern Zone: Deeper, dark, clay soils (generally on the east side of Austin)
- **B/E -** Native to both Edwards Plateau and Blackland Prairie
- T Native to Texas (not a part of Edwards Plateau or Blackland Prairie)
- **X** Hybrid plant with native Texas parentage

For additional native plant information, visit the plant section of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower website at www.wildflower.org

#### Height and Spread:

Height and spread are provided in ranges. The maximum heights reflect ideal conditions.

#### Utility Approved Trees:

light for 6-8 hours

Plants appropriate for use near overhead and underground utilities should not exceed 20' (call 811 at least 3 business days before you plan to dig).

#### Light:

Sun – needs at least 6-8 hours of full, direct sun
Sun/Part Shade – can take anywhere from 4-8 hours
of sun. Typically these plants bloom more in sun
but require less water in part shade
Shade – less than 4 hours of direct sun; or dappled

#### Evergreen or Deciduous:

- **E** Evergreen
- SE Semi-evergreen
- D Deciduous

#### Water

Refers to the plant's water needs during the growing season after they are established. The majority of plants require more water while becoming established. For Austin's current water restrictions, variances and other irrigation information visit www.WaterWiseAustin.org

- **VL** Very Low (Water occasionally, if no significant rain for 30 days)
- L Low (Water thoroughly every 3-4 weeks if no significant rainfall)
- M Medium (Water thoroughly every 2-3 weeks if no significant rainfall. Most plants in the guide with this designation prefer shade so the soil does not dry out as quickly)
- H High (Water thoroughly every 5-7 days if no rainfall) Due to the City's efforts to conserve water, there are only a few plants with this designation and they should be placed in areas that are naturally moist and/or receive stormwater runoff.

#### Wildlife:

X – Most Texas native plants provide greater wildlife value than hybrid, non-native and/or exotic plants. Flowers, nectar, leaves, fruits and nuts provide food for wildlife; these plants also provide essential cover for nesting and raising young. To learn more visit: www.KeepAustinWild.com



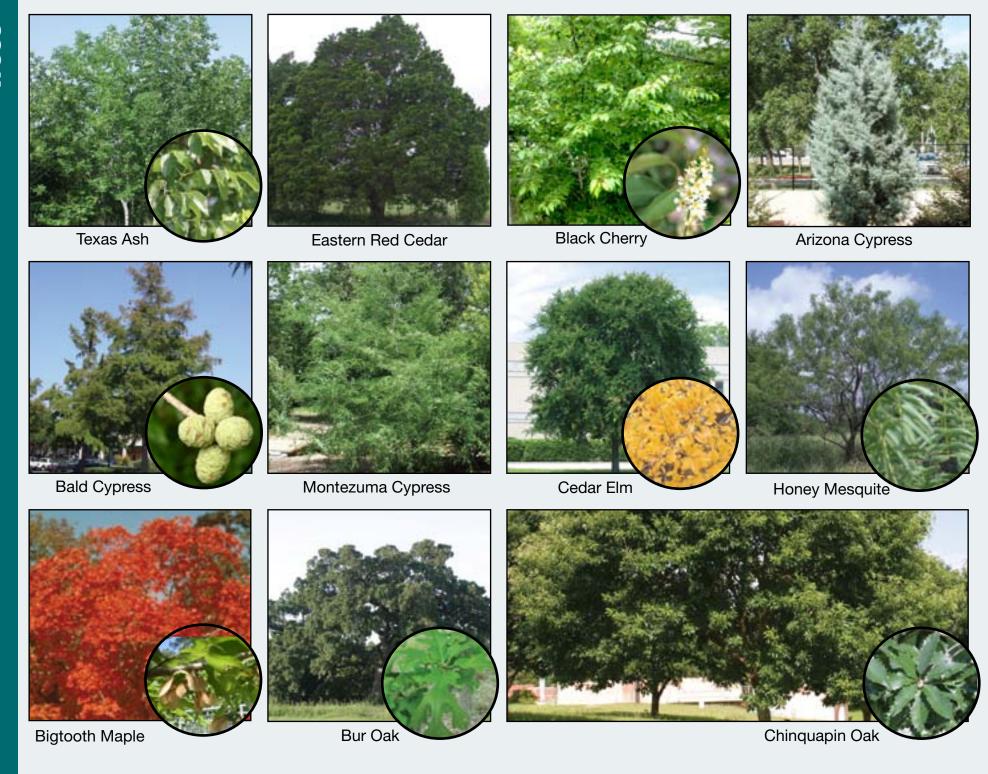
# Gardening, "Austin-style"...

The Grow Green plant guide was created to help you select native and adapted plants for the Austin area that are naturally drought tolerant, resistant to pests and diseases, and provide habitat and food sources for local wildlife. The less watering, fertilizing and chemical control required in your yard, the more you contribute to the conservation and protection of our precious water resources - our streams, lakes and aquifers.

To grow a successful earth-wise landscape, plant the right plants in the right place. Plants from other parts of the country are often poorly suited to our climate and soils. Choosing native and adapted Central Texas plants is the sustainable, earth-wise alternative. Evaluate your planting environment and pick the plant species that will perform suitably under those conditions.

The environmental conditions across Austin area vary quite a bit. The most important differences are soil depth and type, which are significant factors in ultimate plant height. In general, the deeper the soil is, the taller the plants will get. This is particularly important when planting trees.

We hope you enjoy using this guide to bring a touch of Austin's natural beauty to your own landscape. Visit **www.GrowGreen.org** for more earth-wise gardening information.



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spread Light

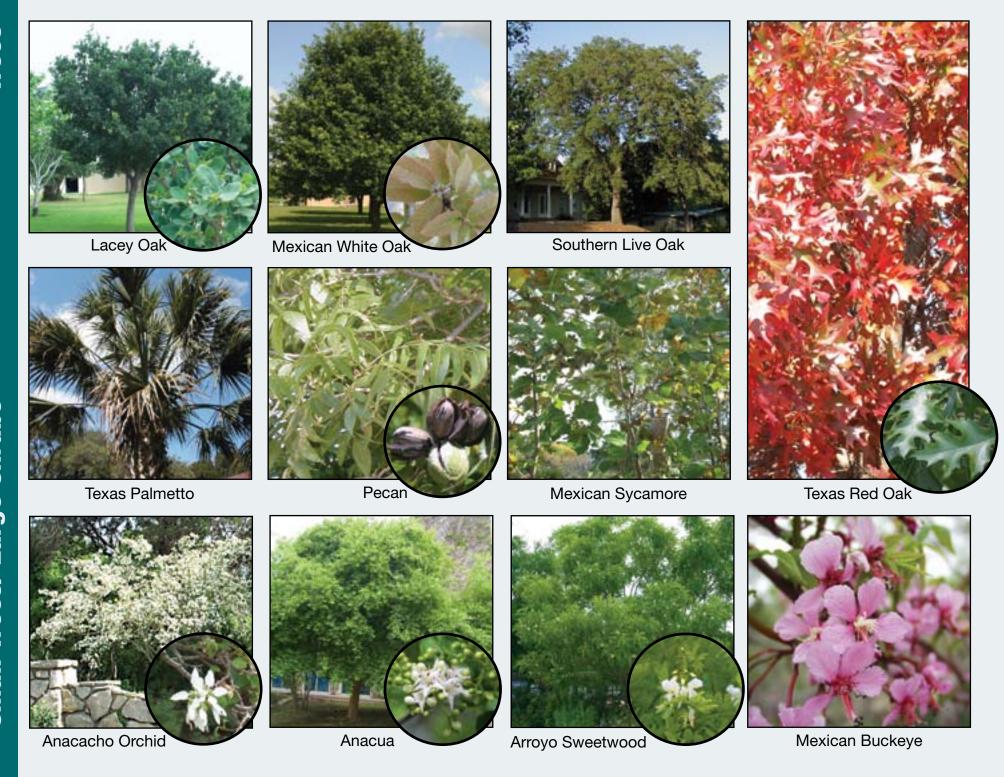
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Seasonal Interest Colonfeature Water

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General Maintenance: Eliminate crossing branches; shape a young tree in the first three years after planting to produce an attractive mature specimen. Avoid planting trees with fruit near sidewalks, pools and porches because they can be messy. For more tree care tips see the Grow Green Tree Care and Installation and Maintenance fact sheets. Did you know? Trees receive protection within the city limits of Austin once they reach 19" in diameter on single-family lots, and 8" in diameter on multi-family and commercial properties. For more information visit www.austintexas.gov/treeportal or call (512) 974-1876.

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Ash, Texas Fraxinus texensis	E	40-50'	40-50'	Sun	D	Fall	Yellow- bronze foliage	VL	х	Fast-growing; native; only Ash appropriate for Austin area; provide good drainage; relatively long life; provides nesting and cover; birds eat flowers and fruit; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Cedar, Eastern Red Juniperus virginiana var. virginiana	В	30- 50'+	15-25'	Sun	E	Year round	leaves	L	х	Columnar, spreading shape; needs deep soil; good screen plant; native; Ashe Juniper, <i>J. ashei,</i> (mistakenly called Cedar) is a native alternative for shallow soils; does not need pruning
Cherry, Black <i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>exima</i>	В	25- 50'+	35'	Sun	D	Spring	White flower; yellow fall foliage	L-M	Х	Attractive shape; fall color; fragrant flowers; glossy leaves; fruit bearing; not for heavy clay soils; foliage can be fatal if consumed; provide moist location; attracts birds, butterflies and pollinators; prune for shape or to raise canopy
Cypress, Arizona Cupressus arizonica	T	25- 50'+	15-25'	Sun	Е	Year round	Blue-silver foliage	VL	х	Suited to well-drained, limestone soils; attractive, peeling red bark; some disease problems; native to Chisos Mountains; prune to shape, if needed
Cypress, Bald Taxodium distichum	B/E	60- 100'	35-50'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Copper foliage	М	х	For riparian/moist, deep soil or poor drainage conditions only; foliage dries up in dry, hot location; obtain plants of western seed source; does not need pruning
Cypress, Montezuma Taxodium mucronatum	T	60- 100'	25-50'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Bronze foliage	Н	х	Similar to Bald Cypress but faster growth and more adapted to dry conditions; may freeze in severe winters; native to south Texas; does not need pruning
Elm, Cedar <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	B/E	50-75'	25-35'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Gold foliage	VL	х	Upright form, native; adapted to rocky soils; can withstand poorly drained, clay soils and/or moderately compacted soils; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Honey Mesquite <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. g <i>landulosa</i>	B/E	25'-40'	25-30'	Sun	D	March- Sept.	Creamy white flowers	VL	Х	2-3" long blooms; bright green foliage and weeping shape; very slow growing; thorns; excellent nectar source;Thornless Mesquite is <i>Prosopis chilensis</i> ; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Maple, Bigtooth Acer grandidentatum	E	20-50'	20-30'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Red, gold foliage	М	х	Best maple for alkaline soils; outstanding fall color; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Oak, Bur Quercus macrocarpa	B/E	50- 70'+	30-50'+	Sun	D	Spring	Large acorns	VL	х	Large, majestic tree, very adpatable; provide plenty of space and deep soil; moderate growth rate; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Oak, Chinquapin Quercus muhlenbergii	B/E	50- 70'+	30-40'	Sun	D	Fall	Yellow and rust foliage	L	х	Stately form; provide deep soil; moderate growth rate; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed



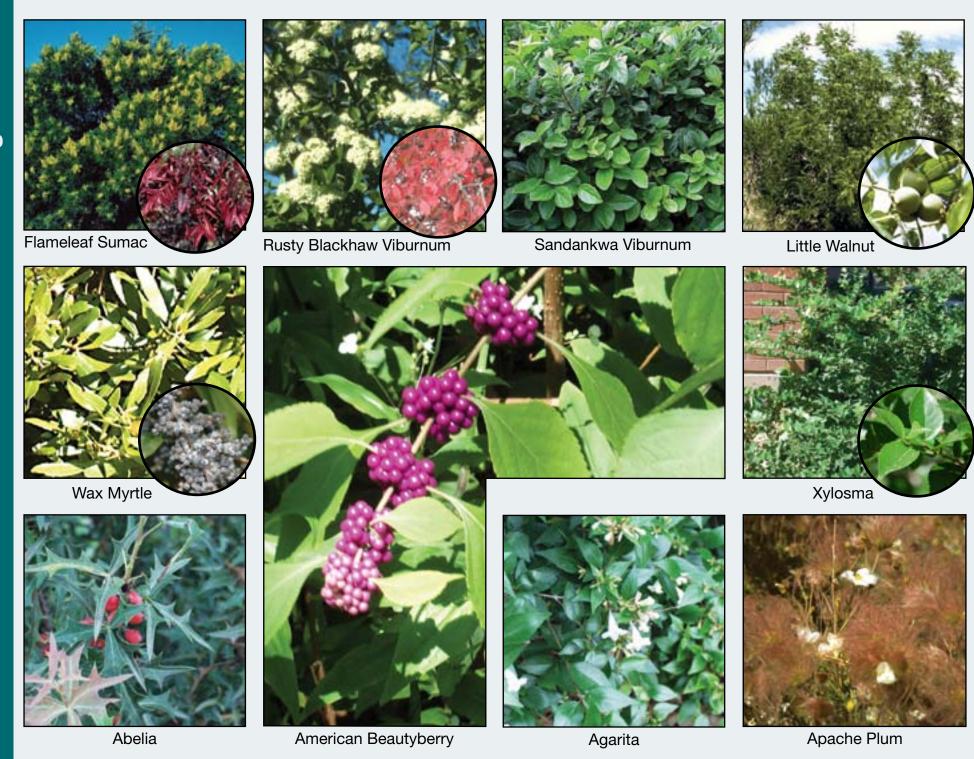
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Oak, Lacey <i>Quercus laceyi</i>	Ε	30- 50'+	25'	Sun/Part Shade	D		Blue-green foliage	VL	х	Ideal for small urban yards; slow growth rate; will grow on shallow, limestone soils; resistant to oak wilt; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Oak. Mexican White Quercus polymorpha	T	45- 60'+	30-40'	Sun	SE			VL	х	Handsome tree; provide deep soil; sheds leaves in spring when new leaves emerge; small population native to West Texas; resistant to oak wilt; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Oak, Southern Live Quercus virginiana	B/E	40- 60'+	50'+	Sun/Part Shade	E	Year round	Evergreen leaves	L-VL	Х	Oak wilt susceptible; provide large open space; evergreen but sheds leaves in spring as new leaves emerge; if planting in shallow soil, use Escarpment Live Oak, <i>Q. fusiformis</i> , which is more drought tolerant; prune only during hottest and coldest months; paint all wounds immediately to help prevent spread of oak wilt
Oak, Texas Red Quercus texana	Ε	60- 75'+	15-30'	Sun	D	Fall	Red foliage in fall	L	х	Well adapted to rocky soils; susceptible to oak wilt; use western seed source for red oaks; Shumard Oak, <i>Q. shumardii</i> is a taller, alternative, but only for deep, well-drained soil; prune to shape or raise canopy
Palmetto, Texas / Palm Texas Sabal Sabal texana or S. mexicana	Т	45'	15'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	Small white flowers	L-M	х	Not a true tree; found in moist, wet locations and/or those areas with occasional flooding; provides food for birds and other wildlife; prune only to remove dead fronds
Pecan Carya illinoensis	В	60- 75'+	60-75'	Sun	D			Н	х	For riparian/moist, deep soil conditions only; tall impressive tree; nut producing; susceptible to disease and insects; many cultivars available
Sycamore, Mexican Platanus mexicana		60'	40'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Yellow/ orange	Н	Х	For riparian/moist, deep soil conditions only; fast-growing; resistant to bacterial leaf scorch; may not be cold tolerant; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Small Tree	<b>es</b> /	/La	rge	Shr	ub	S		is mul	ti-ste	ees see the TREE section General Maintenance Comments; for large shrubs, if a plant mmed leave lower foliage to create screening or to "limb up" remove lower branches as ee individual species notes
Anacacho Orchid Tree Bauhinia lunarioides	Т	6-12'	6-12'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	White or pink flowers	L	х	Excellent understory tree; protect from winter winds; prefers well-drained soil; fragrant flowers attract butterflies and bees; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Anacua (Sandpaper Tree) Ehretia anacua	T	20- 25'+	15-30'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring - summer	White flowers	L	х	Fast-growing; often suckers or is multi-trunked; provide well-drained, alkaline soil; may die back in severe winters; edible fruit; attracts birds; bee nectar source; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Arroyo Sweetwood Myrospernum sousanum		up to 20'+ (A)	15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	White flowers; gold fall foliage	VL	х	Fast-growing shrub, often multi-trunked; nice foliage; prefers alkaline soil; fragrant, showy flowers; attracts butterflies, birds and bees; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Buckeye, Mexican Ungnadia speciosa	Е	12-20' ( <u>\</u>	12-20'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Early spring	Pink flowers	L	х	Multi-trunked; use as understory shrub; needs 1/2 day of sun; 1" fragrant blooms; yellow fall foliage; does not need pruning



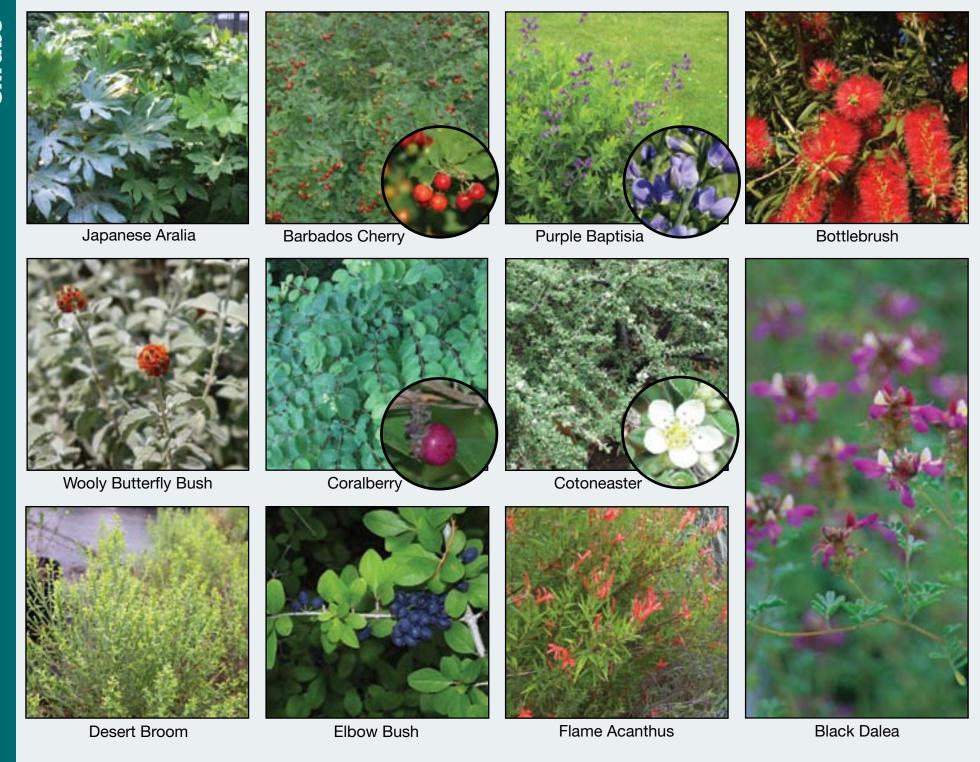
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Buckeye, Red <i>Aesculus pavia</i> var. <i>pavia</i>	B/E	10-20' (A)	10-15'	Shade	D	Spring	Red flowers	L-M	х	Red, funnel-shaped flowers; leaves drop early at end of summer; attracts hummingbirds; prune for shape only
Carolina Buckthorn Frangula caroliniana	B/E	12-20' (A)	10-15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall/winter	Yellow foliage	L	х	Understory tree with glossy leaves;can withstand periodic flooding; red berries attract wildlife; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Cherry Laurel Prunus caroliniana	T	15- 20'+	15'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	White flowers	M	х	Screening plant; avoid using in hot dry locations; requires deep soil and good drainage; is susceptible to iron chlorosis; wildlife food; 'Bright and Tight' can be used as a large hedge
Crape Myrtle Lagerstroemia indica		varies if under 20' UA	varies	Sun	D	Summer	Varies	L-M		Often too big for selected space, so note mature size of cultivar (dwarf cultivars available); needs good air circulation; choose powdery mildew resistant cultivars; aphids can be a problem; occasionally reseeds; remove suckers but do not chop tops
Desert Willow Chilopsis linearis	E	varies if under 20'	15-20'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	White, pink or burgundy	VL	х	Open, airy structure creates light shade for underplantings; native; trumpet-shaped, 3" long flower; provide well-drained soil; prune for shape or to raise canopy; remove suckers if needed
Eve's Necklace Styphnolobium affine	E	15- 20'+ (JA)	10-20'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	Light pink flowers	VL	х	Small, understory tree; native; 4-6" drooping flower clusters; which turn into namesake seed pods; seeds are poisonous; prune to shape or raise canopy, if needed
Goldenball Leadtree Leucaena retusa	E	12- 20'+ (JA)	12-15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	April to October	Gold flowers	VL	Х	Small, understory tree with 1" round globe-like fragrant blooms;native; airy foliage casts light shade for underplantings; provides cover, nesting and nectar; prune for shape or to raise canopy if needed
Holly, Possumhaw <i>llex decidua</i>	B/E	12-20' (JA)	12'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall/winter	Red berries	М	Х	Large multi-stemmed, shade tolerant shrub; red berries on female plants attract birds in winter; tolerates poor drainage; prune for shape if needed; similar to Yaupon Holly but loses its leaves in winter; prune for shape if needed
Holly, Yaupon <i>llex vomitoria</i>	В	12-20' (Ā	10-15'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Winter	Red berries	L-M	Х	Large, evergreen, multi-stemmed, shade tolerant shrub; red berries on female plants attract birds in winter; tolerates poor drainage; fruits best in full sun; poisonous berries; prune for shape if needed
Huisache <i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	T	15- 20'+	20'	Sun	SE	Spring blooms	Yellow flowers	VL		Excellent native tree for waterwise gardens; fragrant blooms; forage for birds and other small creatures; prune for shape or to raise canopy if needed
Kidneywood Eysenhardtia texana	Е	8-15'	6-8'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	White flowers	VL	х	Fast-growing, native shrub with open, airy foliage; fragrant flowers; blooms off and on through growing season; foliage smells citrusy when crushed; attracts butterflies and bees, prune for shape if needed



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Mountain Laurel, Texas Sophora secundiflora	Е	12- 20'+ (VA)	8-12'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring	Purple flowers	VL	Х	Slow-growing evergreen native; showy purple flowers with grape bubble gum fragrance; poisonous seeds; native to rocky, limestone cliffs; provide good drainage; prune to shape or raise canopy if desired
Olive, Mexican Cordia boissieri	T	15' (A)	15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring/ Summer	Gray green foliage	VL	х	Furry-textured foliage; fruit can be messy so don't plant near driveways/sidewalks; top may die in hard freeze; some reports fruit edible but not palatable; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Palm, Windmill Trachycarpus fortunei		25'	7-10'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Dark green foliage		L-VL	х	Palms are not true trees; tropical-looking, fan-shaped fronds; furry-looking trunks; painful spines; avoid west sun; hardy to 5° F; remove dead fronds as needed; can be heavy-feeders
Persimmon, Texas Diospyros texana	E	12- 20'+ (JA)	8-12'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	White flowers	VL	х	Multi-trunked, slow-growing native shrub; smooth, gray bark; native to shallow, rocky limestone soils; female trees bear fruit which attract wildlife but can be messy; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Plum, Mexican Prunus mexicana	B/E	15- 20'+ (JA)	15-20'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	White flowers	L	х	Great understory tree; earliest spring bloomer; provide good drainage and fair amount of soil; fragrant flowers are nectar source; edible fruit in July-Sept; larval host; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Pomegranate Punica granatum		varies if under 20' (JA)	varies	Sun	SE	Summer thru fall	Orange flowers	L	х	Some cultivars bear edible fruit; dwarf fruiting and non-fruiting cultivars are available; will grow on shallow, rocky, limestone soil; thorny stems
Redbud, Mexican Cercis canadensis var. 'mexicana' Redbud, Texas Cercis canadensis var. 'texensis'	E	10-15' 15-20'	10-15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Early spring	Pinkish purple	L-VL	х	Mexican variety has small wavy leaves; Texas variety has leaves that are larger and less wavy; provide well-drained site; Eastern Redbud not recommended; prune to shape, raise canopy or remove suckers
Retama Parkinsonia aculeata	Т	12-20' (JA)	12-20'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	Yellow flowers	VL	х	Appropriate for dry soils; green trunk and branches; seeds out; root suckers; thorns; fast-growing; short-lived; prune to shape or raise canopy if needed
Roughleaf Dogwood Cornus drummondii	B/E	12'-20'	15-20'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	White berries	L	х	Give lots of space; thicket-forming; suckers extensively; use for natural areas and habitat gardens; tolerates alkaline soil; good nectar and seed source
Silktassel, Mexican <i>Garrya ovata</i> spp. <i>lindheimeri</i>	Е	5-11'	5-11'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	Green flowers	L	х	Extremely drought and disease tolerant; must have well-drained soil to do well; fast-growing; good substitute for Ligustrum
Sumac, Evergreen Rhus virens	E	8-10' (VA)	6-8'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Late summer- winter	White blooms	L	х	Glossy leaves turn burgundy in cool season; fuzzy, orange/red berries provide food for birds and other wildlife; needs good drainage; prune as needed to maintain natural form



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Sumac, Flameleaf Rhus lanceolata	B/E	12 - 15'+ (JA)	10 - 20'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Orange/ red fall foliage	VL	х	Give lots of space; thicket-forming suckers can go out 20'; native to limestone soils; provides food for bees, mammals, and birds; no pruning necessary
Viburnum, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum rufidulum	B/E	15-20'	10-15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late spring and fall	White flowers; fall foliage	L	х	Good understory tree; provide deep, well-drained soils; slow-growing; yellow, orange, and red fall color; fall fruit favored by birds; prune to shape or raise canopy as needed after blooming
Viburnum, Sandankwa Viburnum suspensum		6-8' (JA)	6-8'	Sun/Part Shade	Ε	Spring	White flower	M		Provide deep soil and good drainage; fairly fast-growing; prune to shape as needed after blooming
Walnut, Little Juglans microcarpa	Т	18-20'	20'	Shade	D	Spring; fall	White flowers; nuts	M	х	Grows in limestone soil; provides good cover, nesting; nuts provide food for wildlife; poisonous flowers; prune for shape or to raise canopy as needed
Wax Myrtle Morella cerifera	В	12 - 15'+ (JA)	15'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Winter	Blue berries	M	х	Fast-growing evergreen screen; provide deep soil; foliage aromatic when crushed; dwarf cultivars available at 8-10' height; provides food and cover for wildlife; prune for shape or to raise canopy if needed
Xylosma Xylosma congestum		12-20' (Ā	8-15'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring	White flowers	M		Large, loose, airy shrub or small tree; glossy foliage; inconspicuous flowers; adaptable to most soils; heat tolerant; occasional scale or spider mites; hardy to 10° F; can be pruned as tree or hedge
Shrubs 10	maint	tain a na	atural loc	ok, selective	ely pru	une to sha	pe if neede	d but (	do no	t shear
Abelia, Glossy Abelia x grandiflora		6'	6'	Sun/Part Shade	Ε	Summer to fall	Pink/white flowers	L-M		Fast-growing, very adaptable, dense, evergreen hedge; fragrant flowers; 3-4' dwarf cultivars available; check label for specifics; selectively prune errant stems if too wild-looking
Agarita Berberis trifoliata (Mahonia trifoliata)	Е	3-7'	3-6'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Early spring	Yellow flowers; red berries	VL	х	Native, evergreen shrub; bluish-green, holly-like foliage; fragrant early spring flowers; prickly leaves not pedestrian friendly but provides excellent nesting for birds; red edible berries; pruning not necessary
American Beautyberry Callicarpa americana	В	4-6'	6'	Shade	D	Fall/winter	Purple fruit	L-M	х	Great native understory shrub; provide dependable moisture and deep soil; attractive berries in fall and winter; wildlife food; graceful structure does not need pruning
Apache Plume F <i>allogia paradoxa</i>	Е	4-6'+	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring	White flowers; pink fruit	L		Multi-stemmed; 2" showy blooms; good for erosion control; adaptable to dry, well-drained, limestone, sandy and clay soils; provides nectar, cover; attracts bees, butterflies, birds; evergreen to 20° F



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Aralia, Japanese Fatsia japonica		10'	10-12'	Shade	E	Late summer/ early fall	Cream flowers	M		Large, tropical-looking foliage; inconspicuous blooms; water from below to reduce foliage disease; may die back in harsh winter; remove yellow foliage as needed
Barbados Cherry Malpighia glabra	Т	4-6'+	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	March to Dec.	White to pale pink flowers	L-M	х	1/2" delicate, crepe-paper flowers followed by red berries that are prized by birds; evergreen above 25° F
Baptisia, Purple (Wild Indigo) Baptisa australis	Т	up to 5'	3'	Sun	D	Spring to early summer	blue/ purple	L-M	х	Tap-rooted plant; prefers well-drained soil; tolerates limestone, most parts of plants poisonous; attracts butterflies and bees
Bottlebrush Callistemon citrinus		8'	6'	Sun	Е	Spring/ Summer	Red flowers	L		Unusual, tropical-looking flowers; provide well-drained soil; drought tolerant; pest and disease resistant; many cultivars available; prune for natural look if needed
Butterfly Bush, Wooly Buddleja marrubiifolia	Т	4-6'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late spring to fall	Orange flowers	L	х	South Texas native shrub with fuzzy, silvery blue-green leaves; interesting 1/2" flower; provide good drainage; winter hardy, attracts butterflies; prune for natural look if needed
Coralberry Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	В	2-3'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late fall and winter	Magenta berries	M	х	Good native for erosion control; stems root to form colony; provide rich, moist soil and good air circulation; provides cover and berries for wildlife; cut back in winter if gets leggy; control runners as required
Cotoneaster Cotoneaster spp.		3-5'	4-7'	Sun/Part Shade	Е		Red berries	M		Adaptable evergreen shrubs; many species and cultivars available; foliage varies from silver- gray to dark green; check label for specifics; attractive fleshy berries; prune for natural look if needed
Dalea, Black Dalea frutescens	E	1-3'	3'	Sun	D	Summer	Purple flowers	VL	х	Native to dry, limestone soils; requires little water; long roots will find water some distance away; excellent nectar source; may shear back after first frost browns leaves
Desert Broom Baccharis sarothroides		3-6'+	3-4'	Sun	SE	Fall	White flowers	L	х	Multi-stemmed shrub; very adaptable; readily colonizes disturbed areas; use in wildscapes; may shed leaves during drought
Elbow Bush Forestirera pubescens	E	4-6'	4-5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	White	VL	Х	Thicket-forming, irregular-shaped shrub; use in natural areas or wildlife habitats; non-showy flowers provide spring nectar for many insects; berries eaten by birds and small mammals; prune to shape if needed
Flame Acanthus Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii	E	3-5'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer to fall	Orange- red flowers	VL	х	Medium-sized native shrub can be used as low hedge; orange, tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies; re-seeds aggressively; if frost browns leaves, cut back by 1/3 to 1/2 before spring growth begins



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Fragrant Mimosa Mimosa borealis	E	6-8'	6-8'	Sun	D	Spring to mid- summer	Pink flowers	VL	х	Needs good drainage; prickly stems; tolerates poor caliche soil; little maintenance necessary
Germander, Bush Teucrium fruticans		4-6'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	Ε	Summer	Lavendar/ blue flowers	L		Don't over water; attractive silvery-gray green foliage; prune errant stems for a natural look, shaping not necessary
Greek Myrtle Myrtus communis		10- 12'+	5-8'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring to summer	White flowers	L-M		Fine-textured evergreen shrub or small tree; fragrant flowers; heat and drought tolerant; good substitution for Boxwood; prune only to shape as needed
Hawthorn, Indian Raphiolepis indica		4-6'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring	White or pink flowers	L-M		Adaptable evergreen shrubs; many cultivars available; look for disease resistant and cold hardy cultivars; check label for specifics; attractive fleshy berries; pruning usually not necessary
Holly, Dwarf Burford <i>llex cornuta</i> 'Burfordii'		4-6'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring/ Winter	White blooms; red berries	L		Use as evergreen hedge or screen; adapts to many soil types; susceptible to scale insects; non-dwarf cultivars available; prune for natural look
Holly, Dwarf Yaupon <i>llex vomitoria</i> 'Nana'	Х	2-4'	2-4'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Year Round	Evergreen Foliage	L		Low, mounding, evergreen shrub; maintains a formal shape; good subsitute for Boxwood; pruning not usually necessary; hybrid with native Texas parentage; pruning not necessary
Holly, Nellie R. Stevens <i>llex cornuta</i> 'Nellie R. Stevens'		8-10'	5-6'	Sun	Е	Fall/winter	Red berries	L-M		Inconspicuous blooms in spring; female plants produce red berries if not sheared; suceptible to iron chlorosis and scale insects; berries attract wildlife; prune to shape
Japanese Yew Podocarpus macrophyllus		10-20'	5-10'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Year round	Dark green foliage	L-M		Narrow, upright evergreen shrub; provide well-drained soil; slow-growing; prune to shape if needed
Mallow, Globe Sphaeralcea ambigua	T	2-5'	2-5'	Sun	D	Summer to fall	Orange, pink or purple flowers	L	х	Provide good drainage and fertile soil; flowers attract bees and butterflies; seeds eaten by seed-eating birds and small mammals; lightly prune for shape
Mistflower, White Ageratina havanensis	Е	3-5'	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	White flowers	L	х	Rounded shape; grows in most soils; fragrant blooms in fall; attracts butterflies, moths and hummingbirds; cut back by 1/2 in winter before new growth begins, if needed to maintain compactness
Mock Orange Philadelphus coronarius		8-12'	6-8'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Mid-spring	White/ yellow flowers	L-M		Fragrant flowers; avoid use in poorly drained soil; medium fast growth; fruit has no major landscape interest; disease and pest free; prune non-flowering woody stems immediately after flowering



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Palmetto, Texas Dwarf Sabal minor	B/E	3-5'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	White flowers	M	x	Not a true shrub; trunkless native palm; tropical-looking but tough; tolerates poor drainage; 1-6' flower clusters; drought tolerant after established; prune only to remove damaged fronds
Pineapple Guava Feijoa sellowiana		6-10'	6-8'	Sun	Е	Spring to early summer	Pink and red blooms	L-M		Likes well-drained soil; a little cold tender; prune for desired shape
Pittosporum Pittosporum tobira		8-10'	7-9'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring	Creamy- white flowers	M		Broad-leaved evergreen makes a good screen; glossy leaves; fragrant flowers; provide well-drained soil; 'Variegata' has leaves with white edges; dwarf cultivars available; susceptible to scale insects; may be damaged in severe winter; pruning not necessary
Roses	Prune	back b	y 1/3 in	late winter;	remo	ove spent	blooms to e	ncour	age r	epeat blooms as needed
Rose, Belinda's Dream <i>Rosa</i> 'Belinda's Dream'		4'	4'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Pink flowers	M		Repeat bloomer; fragrant; disease resistant; good shrub form with large blooms
Rose, Cecile Brunner <i>Rosa '</i> Cecile Brunner'		3-4'	3-4'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Pink flowers	M		Repeat bloomer; disease resistant; easy to grow and care for
Rose, Grandma's Yellow Rosa 'Grandma's Yellow'		4-5'	3'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Yellow flowers	M		The official "Yellow Rose for Texas", repeat bloomer; purest and most disease-resistant yellow rose; fragrant flowers; very thorny
Rose, Knock Out <i>Rosa</i> 'Knock Out'		3'	3'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Red flowers	M		Purple new growth; repeat bloomer; cultivar showing disease resistance
Rose, Livin' Easy <i>Rosa</i> 'Livin' Easy'		4'	3'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Coral to orange	M		Repeat bloomer; showing good disease resistance; upright growth habit
Rose, Marie Daly <i>Rosa</i> 'Marie Daly', Rose, Marie Pavie <i>Rosa</i> 'Marie Pavie'		3'	3'	Sun/ Part Shade	SE	Spring to frost	White to pale pink	M		Antique rose; repeat bloomer; fragrant, very few thorns; disease tolerant; 'Marie Pavie' is white version (see insert)
Rose, Martha Gonzales <i>Rosa</i> 'Martha Gonzales'		3'	3'	Sun/ Part Shade	SE	Spring to frost	Red flowers	M		Antique rose; repeat bloomer; few thorns; disease tolerant
Rose, Mutabilis <i>Rosa</i> 'Mutablis'		6'	8'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Copper yellow to pink	M		Antique rose; very drought tolerant; copper yellow flowers turn to a pretty pink, repeat bloomer; disease resistant



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Rose, Nearly Wild <i>Rosa "</i> Nearly Wild'		3'	4'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Deep pink	M		Single pink bloom; repeat bloomer; disease resistant; needs soil with compost added
Rose, Old Blush Rosa 'Old Blush'		5'	5'	Sun	SE	Spring to frost	Deep pink	M		Antique rose; repeat bloomer; disease resistant
Shrubs continu	ed									
Rosemary, Upright Rosmarinus officinalis		4'	4-6'	Sun	E	On and off all year	Pale blue	L-M		Culinary herb; upright shrub; good drainage required; prone to disease problems in wet conditions; Trailing Rosemary, <i>R. officinalis</i> var. <i>prostratus</i> makes good groundcover
Sage, Texas Leucophyllum frutescens	Т	5-8''	4-5'	Sun	Е	Spring to summer	Purple, pink or white flowers	L-VL	х	Gray leaves but green-leaved and compact cultivars also available; blooms off and on through the growing season; provide well-drained soil; prune for natural look; do not shear or hedge
Senna, Flowering Cassia corymbosa		6-8'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Summer to fall	Yellow flowers	L-M		Dark green leaves, showy bloomer, adapted to caliche soils; susceptible to extremely cold weather; prune for shape or to raise canopy; cut back 1/2 in late winter if damaged by freeze
Skyflower, Duranta Duranta erecta		5-10'	4-10'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Summer to frost	Purple or white flower	L-M		Fine texture; yellow fruit, cold tender; provide fertile, well-drained soil; more flowers in full sun; many cultivars available; cut back after freeze but before new spring growth
Sumac, Fragrant (Aromatic) Rhus aromatica	B/E	6-9'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Vibrant fall leaves	L	х	Fragrant foliage; leaves have spicy fragrance when crushed; smaller varieties available; fruits ripen early, attract wildlife; prune errant stems for natural look; shaping not necessary
Sweet Almond Verbena Aloysia virgata		4-8'+	8'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring thru summer	White flowers	M-L	х	Multi-branched, upright habit, adaptable; fragrant flowers; blooms on and off all summer; attracts butterflies, bees and hummingbirds; diesback in severe winter; prune to shape
Thyrallis, (Golden Showers) <i>Galphimia glauca</i>		4-6'	4'	Sun	E	Spring to frost	Yellow	L		Easy to grow; needs room to spread; tolerates most soils; prefers well-drained soils; hardy to 25° F; lightly prune if needed, to reduce legginess
Turk's Cap Malvaviscus arboreus var. 'Drummondii'	E	2-6'	3-5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late spring to fall	Red flowers; red fruit	L	х	Forms expanding colonies; but easy to contain; attracts hummingbirds and butterflies; top of plant may freeze; cut back to keep confined, when leggy, or if needed after freeze



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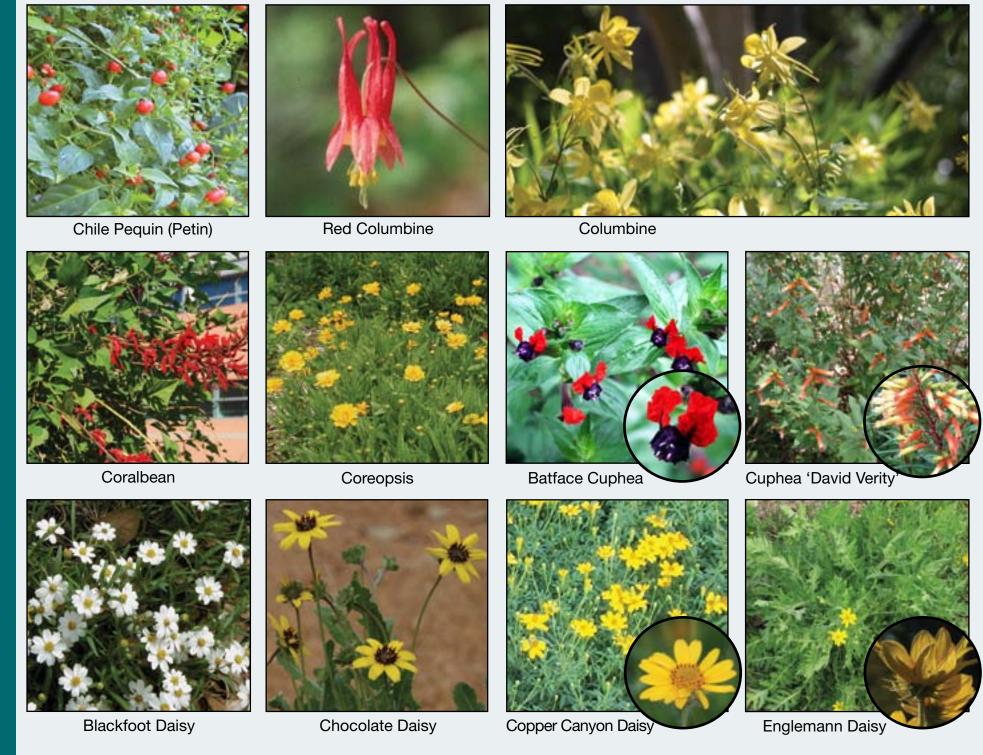
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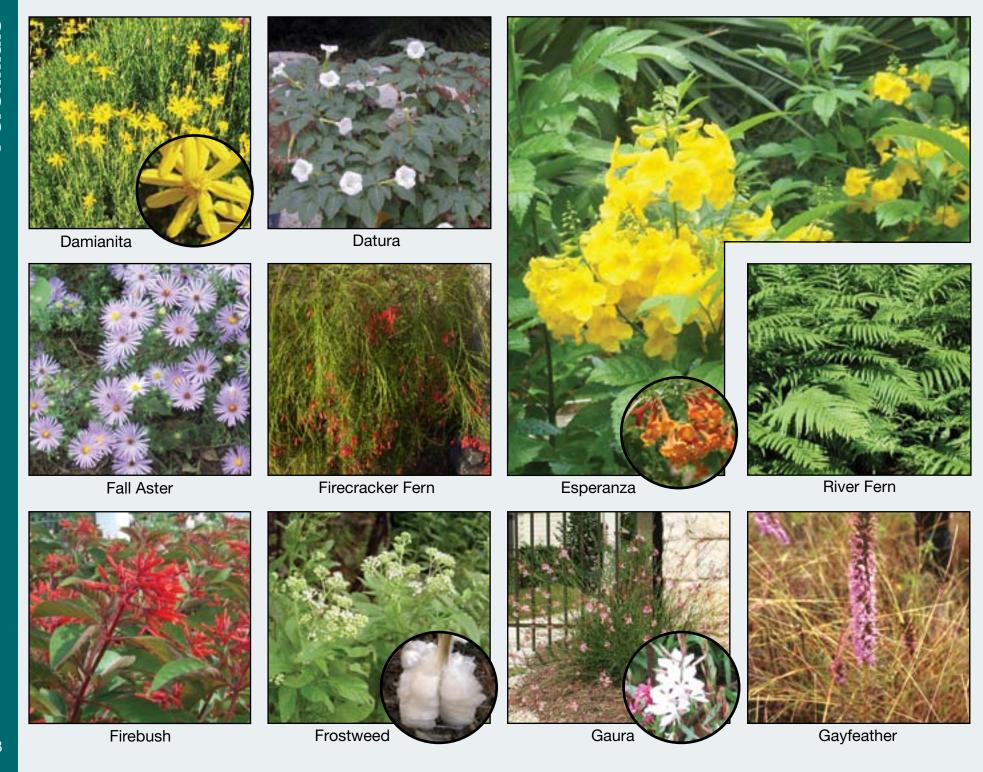
# **Perennials**

Mild winters and/or protected plants are may eliminate the need to cut them back; if the plant looks good, leave it alone; if it needs rejuvenating or you want to encourage more compactness, most perennials will respond positively if cut back 1/3 to 1/2. In general it is best to cut back perennials in winter before spring growth begins.

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Artemisia Artemisia 'Powis Castle'		1-2'	3-6'	Sun	Е	Year round	Blue-gray foliage	VL		Aromatic, lace-like; low water use and low maintenance; cut back to 4" in late winter before new spring growth
Beebalm <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	В	2-5'	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Lavendar, pink or white flowers	L-M	х	Showy native perennial with many cultivars; grows on a variety of soils; nectar source; attracts butterflies, birds and hummingbirds; fragrant foliage; cut back to 4" in late winter before new spring growth
Bird of Paradise, Red Caesalpinia pulcherrima		5-6'+	3-6'	Sun	D	Summer to fall	Red/ orange flowers	L		Dependable summer bloomer with very showy, tropical-looking flowers; heat tolerant; top will be damaged by freeze but roots are hardy to 15° F; prune for shape only; mulch to prevent winter kill of roots
Bird of Paradise, Yellow Caesalpinia gilliesii		6-8'	6-12'	Sun	D	Spring to fall	Yellow with orange	L		Light airy foliage; tropical look; dependably hardy; disease and pest resistant; seeds are toxic; prune for shape only; mulch to prevent winter kill of roots
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> var. <i>pulcherrima</i>	B/E	1-2'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Yellow with dark centers	L-M	Х	Daisy-like blooms in summer; butterfly nectar; can grow native from seed; <i>Rubeckia fulgida</i> var. sullivantii 'Goldsturm' is a cultivar with larger blooms; prune back in late winter
Bulbine Bulbine frutescens		2'	2.5'	Sun	E	Spring to fall	Orange or yellow	VL		Aloe-like leaves; cold tender; may not survive harsh winter unless protected; trim off bloom stalks as they decline
Butterfly Weed, Mexican (Tropical Milkweed) Asclepias currasavica		3-4'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer to fall	Yellow and/or orange flowers	L	х	A. currasavica is most common in nurseries; milkweeds are essential to Monarch butterfly survival; foliage is eaten by caterpillar stage; A. tuberosa is difficult to establish due to taproot and is short-lived; try it and A. asperula and A. viridis from seed
Calylophus (Square Bud Primrose) Calylophous berlanderieri	Е	1-2'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring to summer	Yellow flowers	VL	Х	Good rock garden plant; needs good drainage; 'Compact Gold' is a low-growing variety; good for use as groundcover; no maintenance needed
Cast Iron Plant Aspidistra elatior		3'	2-3'	Shade	Е			L		Good understory plant for dry shade; large, long green leaves; leaf edges will scorch if too much sun; remove damaged foliage to 3" height as needed
Catmint Nepeta X faassenii		1-2'	1.5 - 3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer to fall	lavendar blue flowers	L-M	х	Silvery green foliage; provide well-drained soil and afternoon shade; seeds are sterile so it will not spread; attracts bees and butterflies; cut back to 3-6" after freeze damage but before spring growth



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Chile Pequin Capsicum annuum	E	2-4'	2-4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer to fall	White flowers	L	х	Red peppers are edible and very hot!; perennial only in mild winter; reseeds easily; birds love the fruit; cut back to 3-6" after freeze damage but before new spring growth
Columbine, Red Aquilegia canadensis	Е	1-2'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring	Red flowers	M	х	Prefers moist, yet well-drained soils; reseeds; dormant in summer without water; susceptible to leaf miners; attracts some hummingbirds; prune off spent foliage and seedheads in late May
Columbine, Aquilegia chrysantha var. 'Hinkleyana'	Т	1-2'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring	Yellow flowers	L-M	х	Prefers moist, yet well-drained soils; reseeds; dormant in summer without water; susceptible to leaf miners; attracts some hummingbirds; prune off spent foliage and seedheads in late May
Coralbean Erythrina herbacea	Т	5'	4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	Red flowers	L	х	Good understory plant; blooms on long stalks;sharp spines; attracts hummingbirds; seeds are poisonous and not eaten by wildlife; will freeze back; remove tall bloom shoots after flowering; cut back after freeze and before spring growth
Coreopsis, Lance-leaf Coreopsis lanceolata	Т	1-1.5'	1.5-2'	Sun/ Part Shade	D	Spring to Summer	Yellow flowers	L-M	Х	Butterfly plant; covered with yellow daisy-like flowers; native to east and southeast Texas 'Sunray' and 'Baby Sun' are tighter, more compact; prune or shear off spent blooms to encourage more flowers
Cuphea, Batface Cuphea Ilavea		1'	1'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late spring to frost	Red and purple flowers			Appropriately named; very heat tolerant; cold tender; cut back to 6" after cold damage occurs but before spring growth
Cuphea, 'David Verity' <i>Cuphea</i> 'David Verity'		2-3'	2-3'	Sun	D	Summer to fall	Orange and yellow	L		Provide, well-drained soil; cut back to 3" height after cold damage occurs but before spring growth
Daisy, Blackfoot Melampodium leucanthum	E	6-12"	1-1.5'	Sun	E	Spring and summer	White with yellow centers	VL	Х	Short daisy-like blooms all spring and summer; occasionally reseeds; requires dry conditions; excellent rock garden plant; can be temperamental when transplanting; prune back if leggy
Daisy, Chocolate Berlandiera lyrata	Т	1-2'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late summer	Yellow flowers	L-M	х	Likes dry, rocky limestone, plant has chocolate scent; nectar source for bees and other insects; use in natural area or habitat garden; can be grown from seed; no maintenance
Daisy, Copper Canyon Tagetes lemmonii		3'	4'	Sun	D	Fall	Yellow flowers	L		Daisy-like flowers; strongly-scented leaves; native to Mexico; can prune plants to size mound you want; stop shearing by mid-summer to allow fall flowers
Daisy, Engelmann Engelmannia peristenia	B/E	1.5-2'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring to mid- summer	Yellow flowers	M	х	Easy to grow native perennial; good for natural areas, meadows and habitat gardens; reseeds easily moving around the garden; flowers open in late afternoon; attracts birds; seeds commercially available; remove spent bloom stalks



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Damianita Chrysactina mexicana	Е	1	1.5 - 2'	Sun		Spring and some summer	Golden yellow flowers	VL	х	Low-growing; mounding; use in rock garden; mainly blooms in spring and then on and off through growing season; drought hardy; aromatic foliage; provide well-drained soil; attracts bees; prune in early spring to shape
Datura or Jimson Weed Datura wrightii	Е	4-5'	4-5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	Large white flowers	L	Х	Large, night-blooming, white, trumpet-shaped flowers; native; all parts are poisonous, attracts bees, butterflies, and moths; may reseed; cut back to 6-8" after cold damage and before new spring growth
Esperanza/Yellow Bells Tecoma stans	T	4-8'	4-6'	Sun	D	Summer through Fall	Yellow or orange	L-M	х	Showy blooms; native species has narrow leaves; new cultivars provide color options; top will die back after freeze but usually returns from roots in spring; remove spent blooms as needed; cut back to 6-8" after cold damage but before new spring growth
Fall Aster Aster oblongifolium	Е	2-3'	2.5-3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Purple/ lavender flowers	L	х	Native perennial with fine-textured flowers; profuse fall bloomer; nectar source; colonizes but easy to control; lightly prune if needed through spring and summer to keep compact
Fern, Firecracker Russelia equisetiformis		3'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring to winter	Red or white flowers	L		Needs moderately rich, well-drained soils not a true fern; prune spent flower stalks
Fern, River <i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>	B/E	2-3'	3'	Shade	D			М-Н	х	Likes shady, moist areas; prune dead fronds before spring time growth; mulch well
Firebush Hamelia patens		3-4.5'	4-5'	Sun	D	Summer to Fall	Orange- red flowers	M	х	Tubular flowers attract hummingbirds; turns burgandy in fall; needs protection in severe winters; prune to 6" above ground after first hard freeze and before new spring growth
Frostweed Verbesina virginica	E	3-6'	colon- izes	Shade	D	Fall/winter	White flowers	L-M	х	Forms colonies; nectar source; attracts bees and butterflies; stem ruptures with freeze creating ice crystal formations (inset photo); commercial availability limited; cut back to 6" after cold damage occurs and before new spring growth
Gaura Gaura lindheimeri	В	2-3'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to Summer	Pink or white/pink	L	х	Tall flower spikes with 1" flowers that that resemble fluttering butterflies; attracts butterflies; cut back to 3" after first hard freeze
Gayfeather Liatris mucronata	Е	1-3'	1-1.5'	Sun	D	Aug. to Dec.	Purple to rose pink	VL	х	Likes well-drained limestone soil; best if kept dry; great nectar source for butterflies and other insects; cut back to 3" after first hard freeze



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Germander, Green Teucrium chamaedrys		up to 1'	1-2'	Sun	D	Spring	Pink, purple, lavendar	L-M		Shrubby; clump forming; dark evergreen, aromatic foliage; needs well-drained soil; no pruning necessary
Ghost Plant Graptopetalum paraguayense		7-12"	6-12"	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	Grayish pink leaves	VL	х	Easy to grow with good drainage, light blue to gray, pink foliage; succulent leaves break off easily (and readily re-root); attracts bees; no maintenance necessary
Gregg Mistflower Conoclinium greggi	B/E	1-2'	2-4'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer to fall	Blue flowers	L-M	х	Forms colonies, but easy to contain; tolerates poor soil; can take full sun but does best in morning sun or part shade; attracts butterflies; cut back to 3"if needed after hard freeze
Hibiscus, Perennial <i>Hibiscus</i> spp.	Х	3-5'	4'	Sun	D	Summer to frost	Bright red blooms	M	х	Showy blooms can reach 8-10" across; many cultivars available are hybrids; provides nectar for hummingbirds; <i>H. moscheutos H. coccineus</i> ; cut back to 6" after hard freeze
Honeysuckle, Mexican  Justicia spicigera		3'	4'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring to frost	Orange flowers	L	х	Hummingbird plant; grayish foliage; long bloom period; prune back as needed to encourage fullness
Hymenoxys (Four Nerve Daisy) Tetraneuris scaposa	E	1'	1'	Sun/Part Shade	Ε	Spring-fall	Yellow flowers	VL	х	Daisy-like blooms grow from small tuft; prefers dry, well-drained soils; good in rock garden; prune off spent bloom stalks
Indigo Spires Salvia ¹Indigo Spires'	х	3-4'	5-7'	Sun/Part Shade	D	All summer	Blue/ purple	L-M	х	Allow room to mound and spread; shear back by 1/3 in summer
Iris, Bicolor Dietes bicolor		4'	2-3'	Sun/ Part Shade	Е	Spring to early summer	Creamy yellow w/ markings	L		Forms clumps of long, narrow, iris-like foliage; Buttefly Iris, <i>D. iriodoides,</i> has wider leaves and white flower with blue and yellow markings; remove unsightly foliage as needed
Lamb's Ear Stachys byzantina		1'	1.5'	Sun	D	Year round	Gray fuzzy leaves	L		Tolerates dry soil; used for foliage not flowers; remove unsightly foliage as needed; avoid overhead watering
Lantana (hybrid) <i>Lantana</i> x <i>hybrida</i>	Х	2-4'	4'	Sun	D	Spring to frost	Varies	L	х	Many varieties; butterfly delight; prolific blooming (photo: 'New Gold'); can be cold tender; cut back to 6" after freeze and before new spring growth
Lantana, Texas Lantana urticoides	B/E	3-5'	4-5'	Sun	D	Summer to fall	Orange and yellow flowers	L	х	Flowers begin yellow and turn orange; give lots of room; attacts butterflies; stems become thorny with age; cut back in winter as desired to keep in bounds



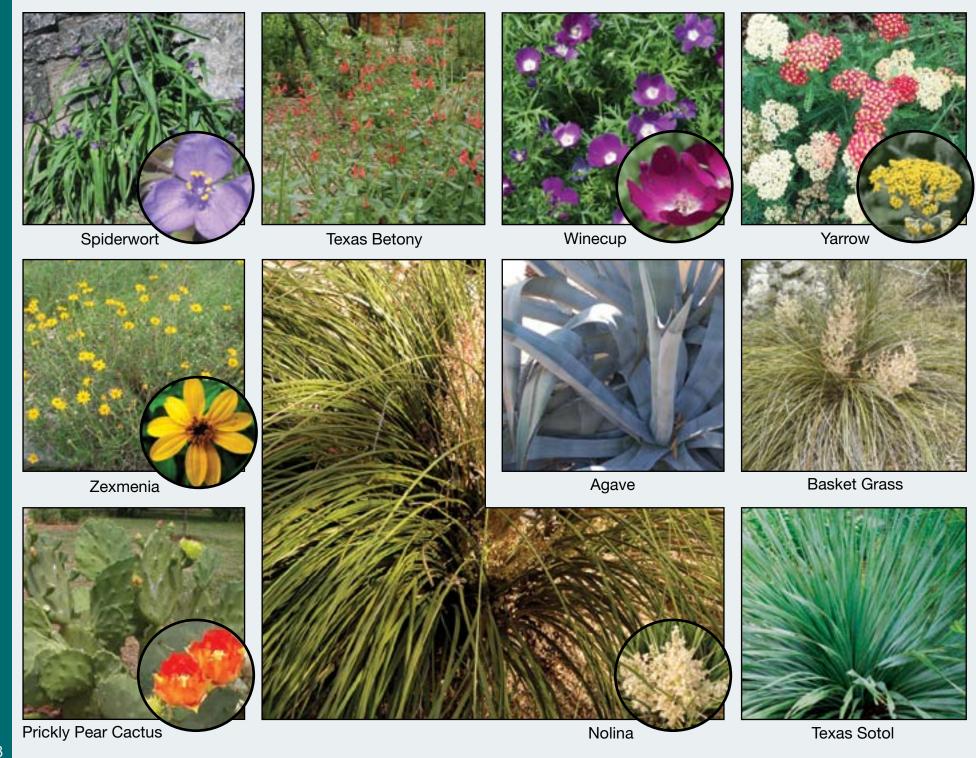
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Lantana, Trailing Lantana montevidensis		1-1.5'	4'+	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring to frost	Lavendar or white flowers	L		May be used as a groundcover; very tolerant of poor soils; resistant to lantana lacebugs; attracts butterflies; do not plant near preserves
Lion's Tail <i>Leonotis leonurus</i>		4-6'	4-6'	Sun	Е	Late spring - fall	Orange flowers	L		Unusual, multi-tiered bloom; provide well-drained soil; seeds out readily; do not plant near preserves; prune after flowering to maintain compact form
Maximilian Sunflower Helianthus maximiliani	B/E	up to 10'		Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Yellow flowers	L-M	х	Forms colony, so plant with plenty of space toward back of garden; easy to grow; seed is commercially available; cut back stalks after freeze and birds have harvested seeds
Mexican Mint Marigold Tagetes lucida		2-3'	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Yellow/ orange flowers	L		Tarragon-flavored culinary herb; spreads over time; shear in early summer to encourage compactness
Obedient Plant, Fall Phystostegia virginiana	В	2-4'	4'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Lavendar	M	х	Tolerates poor drainage; spreads aggresively by underground rhizomes, but easy to contain; <i>P. angustifolia</i> is spring-blooming relative; cut back to 6" after fall bloom
Oregano, Mexican Poliomintha longiflora		3'	4'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Summer	Lavender/ pink	L		Aromatic foliage; edible leaves; will sprawl if not pruned; cut back top 1/2 after bloom and to 3-4" after cold damage and before spring growth
Penstemon, Gulf Coast Penstemon tenuis	Т	1.5- 2.5'	1-1.5'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring	Lavendar	L	х	Attracts humingbirds; seeds out readily; remove flower stalks before they set seed to avoid spread
Penstemon, Hill Country Penstemon triflorus	Е	1.5- 2.5'	1.5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	Hot pink to red	L	х	Good hummingbird plant; needs well-drained soil; cut back flowers after blooming
Penstemon, Rock Penstemon baccharifolius	Е	1-1.5'	2'	Sun	Е	Spring/ summer	Cherry red	L	х	Needs well-drained soil; attracts hummingbirds; trim if leggy
Phlox, Garden Phlox paniculata		3'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Pink/white flowers	M	х	Tall bloom spikes all summer; susceptible to powdery mildew; attracts butterflies; cut back to 3" after hard freeze and before spring growth
Plumbago Plumbago auriculata		3-4'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Sky blue or white	L-M	х	Light green foliage; does best with morning sun and afternoon shade; attracts hummingbirds; cut back to 6" if hard freeze damage occurs



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Primrose, Missouri Oenothera macrocarpa	B/E	1-1.5'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	Yellow flowers	L	х	Silver foliage; large, yellow, buttercup-like flowers that open in the evening; may go dormant in summer; interesting seed pods; cut back to 3" after freeze damages leaves
Purple Coneflower Echinacea purpurea	Т	1-3'	3'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to summer	Violet or white flowers	L	х	Daisy-like flowers; native; good butterfly plant; seed available for native species; hybrid selections also available; remove flower stalks after birds have harvested seeds
Rock Rose Pavonia lasiopetala	Е	3'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Pink	L	х	Small native shrub with 1.5" hibiscus-like blooms; more prone to powdery mildew in shade; very few blooms after spring; reseeds freely; attracts butterflies; cut back by 1/3 in late winter
Ruellia, Dwarf Ruellia brittoniana		8"-1'	1'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to summer	Blue/ purple to pink	L		Petunia-like flower; dwarf varieties include 'Katie' or 'Bonita'; reseeds profusely; taller types are invasive; do not plant near preserves; prune taller species to 3" after first frost browns leaves
Sage, Cedar Salvia roemeriana	E	1-2'	1-2'	Shade/Part Shade	D	Spring to summer	Red	VL	х	Reseeds freely; red bloom spikes bring color to shady spots; great for hummingbirds; remove seed heads after flowering, then scatter in new areas to expand population
Sage, Cherry (Autumn Sage) Salvia greggii	Е	2-3'	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring to frost	Red, many other colors	M	х	1" long blooms; comes in a variety of colors; hummingbirds love the red ones; tough, may bloom less after 4-5 years; cut back mature plants by 1/3 to 1/2 after spring or fall bloom if needed to rejuvenate
Sage, Jerusalem Phlomis fruticosa		2-3'	3-4'	Sun	Е	Spring to Summer	Yellow flowers	L		Unusual flowers; multi-tiered; attractive gray green foliage; remove spent bloom stalks and ratty foliage as needed
Sage, Majestic Salvia guaranitica		3-5'	4-5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to Summer	Blue or purple flowers	L		Attractive green foliage and large florets on spikes; cut back to 6" after cold weather browns leaves and before new spring growth begins
Sage, Mealy Blue Salvia farinacea	B/E	2-3'	2-3'	Sun	D	Spring to Summer			х	Will grow in most soils; attracts hummingbirds and bees; easy to grow from seed; the cultivar <i>S. farinacea</i> 'Henry Duelberg' has dark blue flowers; remove spent bloom stalks to encourage flowering; cut back mature plants to 6" in late winter before new spring growth begins
Sage, Mexican Bush Salvia leucantha		4-5'	4-5'	Sun	D	Late summer to fall	Purple and white	L	х	Silver-green, lance-like foliage; new growth white and fuzzy; an all purple flowering type is available; cut back after frost browns leaves and before new spring growth
Sage, Penstemon/ Big Red Sage Salvia penstemonoides	Е	3-4'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Summer to fall	Magenta flowers	L	х	Tall, spiked blooms provide vertical accent and nectar for hummingbirds in summer; attractive glossy leaves form evergreen rosette (basal leaves) in winter; remove spent bloom stalks at base



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Sage, Russian Perovaskia atriciplifolia		3'	3'	Sun	D	Late Summer to Fall	Blue flowers	L		Fine-textured, slivery green lacey leaves; spiky flower stalks; needs good drainage; cut back to 3" after first freeze browns leaves and before new spring growth
Sage, San Luis Salvia microphylla		3-4'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Summer to fall	Red flowers	L	х	from Mexico
Sage, Tropical Salvia coccinea	В	2-3'	1-1.5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late spring to fall	Red	L	х	Short-lived perennial; reseeds profusely; dwarf varieties available; outstanding hummingbird plant; attracts butterflies; cut back in early summer to 3" and after first frost browns leaves
Senna, Lindheimer Cassia lindheimeriana	E	3-4'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late summer to fall	Yellow flowers	L	х	Gray foliage; provide well-drained soil; very tolerant of poor, rocky soils; prune back after frost browns leaves
Shrimp Plant Justicia brandegeana		3-4'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	Copper, red or yellow	L		Does best in morning sun, afternoon shade; great hummingbird plant; best when massed; flowers resemble shrimp; do not plant near preserves; cut back to 6" in winter to encourage bushiness
Skeletonleaf Goldeneye Viguiera stenoloba	Е	3-4'	4-6'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Summer to frost	Yellow flowers	VL	х	Mound of daisy-like flowers; attractive fine-textured foliage; provide well-drained soil; cut back to 6" in winter to encourage bushiness
Skullcap, Heartleaf Scuttelaria ovata subsp. bracteata	E	2'	2'	Shade	Е	Late May to early June	Blue flowers	L	х	Colonizes and spreads easily; flowers attract butterflies; may be dormant in summer; little maintenance required
Skullcap, Pink Scutellaria suffrutescens		1'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Summer	Pink flowers	L		Low growing; very tidy; mounding plant; cut back by 1/3 after bloom if needed to keep compact
Skullcap, Wright's Purple Scutellaria wrightii	B/E	6-10"	1'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring- summer	Purple flowers	L		Native, low water use; drought and heat tolerant; showy blooms; cut back by 1/2 after bloom if needed to keep compact
Society Garlic Tulbaghia violacea		1.5- 2.5'	1.5'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring to summer	Pink flowers	L-M		Provide well-drained soil; solid or variegated leaf forms available; bruised foilage has onion aroma; remove spent bloom stalks
Spider Lily Hymenocallis lirisome	T	1-2'	1-2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late spring to early summer	White flowers	L-M		Large 7" white flowers; glossy strap-like leaves grow in clumps; will die back after freeze and stay dormant until spring



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Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia</i> spp.	Т	1-3'	2'	Shade	D	Spring to fall	Purple or pink flowers	L	х	Fast spreading; dormant in summer, woodsy; edible; nectar source for insects; cut back to 6" in winter or to increase blooms
Texas Betony Stachys coccinea	T	1-1.5'	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer to fall	Coral/red flowers	L	х	Constantly blooming; can be used as a groundcover; nice gray green foliage; attracts hummingbirds; stems can be brittle; shear regularly to encourage fullness and bloom
Winecup, Perennial Callirohoe involucrata	B/E	6"-1'	4-5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to early summer	Magenta flowers	L	х	Sprawling habit great for filling in between plants; will go dormant in summer without supplemental water; larval host plant; cut back to rosette in winter
Yarrow <i>Achillea</i> spp.		1-1.5'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Late spring and summer	varies		х	Forms groundcover; fern-like leaves; butterflies enjoy nectar; larval host plant for Painted Lady butterfly; remove spent blooms; cut back to basal foliage after frost browns leaves
Zexmenia Wedelia texana	Е	1.5- 2.5'	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring to Frost	Golden flowers	L	х	Blooms continuously though not profusely; use in combination with other blooming plants; reseeds; periodic shearing will encourage repeat blooming and fullness
Yuccas/Ag	jaı	es,	/Su	ccul	en	ts/C	acti	/5	ot	These plants require very little, if any maintenance but they all must have well-drained soil. Old blooms stalks should be removed at the base; old leaves can be removed for a neater appearance; wear heavy duty gloves and eye protection
Agave spp. <i>Agave</i> spp.		varies	varies	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring/ Summer	White to creamy white and yellow	VL		Agave spp. are available in many sizes, leaf types and hardiness; after blooming plant dies but leaves "pups"; agave weevil is new pest to watch for; Century Plant ( <i>A. americana</i> ); Parry's Agave ( <i>A. parryi</i> var. <i>truncata</i> ); Queen Victoriae Agave ( <i>A. victoiae-reginae</i> ); Squid (A. <i>bractosa</i> ); no maintenance required
Basket Grass (Sacahuista) Nolina texana	E	2'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Fall	Cream- colored plume	VL	х	Not a true grass; grass-like mounding form effective on slopes; keep away from walkways as leaves have sharp edges; remove old bloom stalks at base
Cactus, Prickly Pear <i>Optunia</i> spp.	B/E	varies	varies	Sun	E	varies	varies	L	х	Likes well-drained, alkaline soil; may become shrub-like; parts are edible; purple fruit; many types available including spineless - check label for size, flower color, hardiness and distinguishing attributes
Nolina Nolina lindheimeriana	Е	10-12'	4-5'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Summer	Tan flowers	L	х	10' tall spike of small, tan flowers; remove old leaves from trunk for neater appearance
Sotol, Texas Dasylirion texanum	E	3-4'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Early summer		L	х	Long blade-like leaves with sharp edges (not pedestrian-friendly); needs space; good barrier plant; requires good drainage; remove old bloom stalks at the base



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Yucca spp.		varies	varies	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Spring and/or summer	Mostly white	VL		Deer typically eat blooms but not foliage; Yucca spp. are available in many sizes, leaf types and hardiness; Paleleaf ( <i>Y. pallida</i> ): Twistleaf ( <i>Y. ropicola</i> ); Softleaf ( <i>Y. recurvifolia</i> ); Big Bend ( <i>Y. rostrata</i> ); remove old bloom stalks at the base
Yucca, Paleleaf Yucca pallida	В	1'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Summer	White flowers	VL		Leaves pale blue-green; deer will eat bloom but not foliage; remove old blooms stalks at the base
Yucca, Red Hesperaloe parviflora	Е	2-4'	4'	Sun	E	Spring to Summer	Coral spike	VL	х	May colonize; deer will eat blooms but not foliage; attracts hummingbirds; remove old bloom stalks at the base; <i>H.funifera</i> is Giant Yucca
Yucca, Twistleaf Yucca rupicola	Е	1-2'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Summer	White	L		Older leaves are twisted; deer eat blooms but not foliage; nectar attracts nocturnal moths; larval host plant for the Yucca Giant Skipper; remove old bloom stalks at the base
Ornament	al	Gra	ass	es ¦	he M he pr	uhly's are airie gras	all good op ses are bes	otions t used	as ac in re	cents or in groups. They stay in mounding forms and can be cutback once a year if needed. storation, prairie, meadow or natural plantings.
Bluestem, Little Schizachyrium scoparium	B/E	3-4'	1.5'	Sun	D	Fall	Copper foliage	L		Prairie plant appropriate in mass plantings in meadow, natural areas or restoration project; larval host plant for several Skipper butterflies; cut back to 6" in winter before new spring growth
Indiangrass Sorghastrum nutans		3-5'	5'	Sun	D	Fall	Bright Gold	М-Н		Prairie plant appropriate in mass plantings in meadow, natural areas or wetlands; tall seed heads in fall; reseeds; cut back to 8" height in winter prior to new spring growth
Inland Seaoats Chasmanthium latifolium	B/E	2-4'	3-6'+	Shade	D	Summer and fall	lvory seeds	L-M	х	Good understory plant; graceful, drooping wheat-like seed heads, reseeds easily; appropriate for woodlands; prefers moist areas; cut back to 4" in winter
Sedge, Meadow Carex perdentata	B/E	1-1.5'	1.5'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	Green Foliage	M		Clumping sedge; coarser texture than most sedges and is one of the tallest; trim to contain; can remove seedheads at end of season
Muhly, Bamboo Muhlenbergia dumosa		4-5'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Late summer to winter	Fine- textured seed stalks	L	Х	Silver-green, fine-textured foliage; hardy but stems brittle; blooms stalks turn attractive straw color in winter; selectively prune stalks to maintain elegant shape; cut back in winter if needed
Muhly, Big Muhlenbergia lindheimeri	E	3-4'	3-4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	White flowers on 6' stalk	L-M	х	Clumping, blue-green grass; smaller native alternative to Pampasgrass; featherlike blooms in fall;attracts wildlife; rake or cut back in winter



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Muhly, Deer Muhlenbergia rigens	Т	1-1.5'	1-1.5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Feathery seed heads	L	х	Tidy clump grass that maintains a round shape; commercial availability may be limited; cut back in winter
Muhly, Gulf <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Т	2-1/2'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Pink seed heads	L-M	x	Wispy seed heads provide great fall color; especially when backlit; cut back in winter
Muhly, Pine <i>Muhlenbergia dubia</i>	Т	1-3'	1-3'	Sun	D		Feathery seed heads	VL	х	Nicely shaped bunchgrass; stiff needles; no maintenance required
Sideoats Grama Bouteloua curtipendula	Т	2-3'	1'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall		L		State grass of Texas; side hanging seed pods; easy to grow from seed; drought tolerant; cut back to 6" height in winter prior to new spring growth
Switchgrass Panicum virgatum	B/E	6'	4'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Reddish tint	L-H		Upright, habit; tall seed heads in fall; usually has a reddish tint; prefers moist areas; prairie plant appropriate in mass plantings in meadow, natural areas or wetlands; reseeds; cut back to 8" height in winter prior to new spring growth; numerous cultivars available
<b>Vines</b> Mos	t vine	s prefer	their roo	ots to be sh	aded	while the	vegetation	grows	in da	appled light to full sun.
Alamo Vine Merremia dissecta	Е	12'	10-12'	Sun/Part Shade	D	spring - fall	White flowers w/ red throat	L-M		Fast-growing, twining vine; easy to grow from seed; tolerates poor soil and alkaline soil but needs good drainage; spreads by rhizomes; poisonous seed; blooms in afternoon; nectar for butterflies; prune to direct and control growth
Carolina Jessamine	т		6-20'	Sun/Part	F	Early	Yellow	М	v	Twining vine: fragrant: attracts humminghirds: noisonous if ingested

Alamo Vine <i>Merremia dissecta</i>	Е	12'	10-12'	Sun/Part Shade	D	spring - fall	White flowers w/ red throat	l .		Fast-growing, twining vine; easy to grow from seed; tolerates poor soil and alkaline soil but needs good drainage; spreads by rhizomes; poisonous seed; blooms in afternoon; nectar for butterflies; prune to direct and control growth	
Carolina Jessamine Gelsemium sempervirens	T		6-20'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Early Spring	Yellow flowers	M	х	Twining vine; fragrant; attracts hummingbirds; poisonous if ingested	
Crossvine Bignonia capreolata	Т		6-30'+	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Summer	Orange flowers	L	х	Tendril vine attaches to wall; very aggressive climber; 'Tangerine Beauty' variety has bright coral blooms; attracts hummingbirds; prune to direct and control growth	
Fig Vine <i>Ficus pumila</i>			6-30'+	Sun/Part Shade	E			M		Vine attaches to wall; very aggressive; not recommended for wood structures; do not plant near preserves; free of insects and diseases; susceptible to hard freezes; prune to direct and control growth	
Honeysuckle, Coral Lonicera sempervirens	Т		6-12'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Late winter- early spring	Coral flowers	L-M	х	Twining vine for smaller structures; attract hummingbirds; fruit-eating birds; prune to direct and control growth	



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Jasmine, Star Trachelospermum jasminoides		20'	12-16'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring to Summer	White flowers	L		Fragrant blooms; glossy leaves; poisonous if ingested; aggressive in shady areas; do not plant near preserves; prune to direct and control growth
Mexican Flame Vine Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides		10'+		Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to Fall	Orange flowers	L	х	Not aggressive twining vine with thick glossy leaves; provides quick cover for chainlink fence; dies back in severe winter; attracts bees, butterflies, and birds; prune to direct and control growth
Passion Vine Passiflora incarnata	T		6-15'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Early Spring to Summer	Lavender flowers	L-M	х	Tendril vine; perennial; food for several species of butterfly larva; exotic-looking flower; aggressive growth; spreading; prune to direct and control growth
Rose, Lady Banksia Rosa banksiae			20+'	Sun	E	Spring	White to yellow	M		Fast-growing, climbing rose; provide sturdy support and lots of space; thornless, disease free; white flowers are fragrant; prune after spring bloom to control and direct growth
Trumpet Vine Campsis radicans	B/E		6-40'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Reddish- orange flowers	L	х	Not recommended for wood structures; attracts hummingbirds; aggressive spreader; plant where roots can be confined; 'Madame Galen' and 'Georgia' have larger blooms; prune to direct and control growth
Virginia Creeper Parthenocissus quinquefolia	B/E		to 40'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Fall	Scarlet fall foliage	L	х	Vigorous vine or groundcover; not recommended for wood structures; pest free; many birds eat fruit; fruit is poisonous
Wisteria, Texas Wisteria frutescens	Т	25-30'	3-6'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring	Bluish-lilac flowers	M	х	High heat tolerance; fragrant; plants can become chloratic on alkaline soils; flowers attract several insect species; prune to direct and control growth
Groundco	ve	rs		roundcovers e very low r			alternatives	s. They	are i	most effective planted in large masses to form a solid cover on the ground.
Aztec Grass Ophiopogon intermedius		1'	1-1.5'	Shade	E		Varigated foliage	M		Clumping grass-like groundcover; similar to Liriope with white variegated leaves; no pests or diseases; variety of cultivars available - check label for specifics; no pruning necessary
Clover Fern Marsilea macropoda	Υ	6"-1'	2'	Sun/Part Shade	D		No flowers	L		Tough groundcover with clover-like leaves; does not require much water but likes it; spreads by runners; dies back during severe winters; no pruning necessary
Dalea, Gregg Dalea greggii	Т	6"-1'	2-4''	Sun	SE	Summer to fall	Purple flowers	L	х	Good for slopes; silvery blue-green leaves; dry soil; winter-hardy; mostly fall flowers attract bees and butteflies; seeds eaten by birds and small mammals; pruning not necessary



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Frogfruit Phyla nodiflora	B/E	6-8"	1.5-2'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Spring to fall	White	L-M	Х	Native groundcover; spreads rapidly; small flower; larval host plant to butterflies; can tolerate poor drainage; commercial availability may be limited; cut back to 3" in winter
Germander, Creeping Teucrium cossonii		4-6"	1.5-2'	Sun	E	Summer	Pink and purple flowers	L		Low mounding form; silver foliage; dark green cultivar available; requires well-drained soil; pruning not necessary
Golden Groundsel (Round-leaf ragwort) Packera obovata	E	1.5'	1-2'	Shade	E	Spring	Yellow flowers	L-M	х	Colonizes and spreads by runners but is easy to control; blooms in spring; is an evergreen rosette most for the year; attracts butterflies; pruning not necessary
Horseherb Calyptocarpus vialis	B/E	8-10"	1'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring to fall	Yellow flowers	VL	х	Recommended for revegetation; tolerates some foot traffic; great for dry shade; naturally abundant in shady areas and lawns - but limited commercial availabilty; can mow as needed to maintain preferred height
Iceplant <i>Aptenia</i> spp. <i>Delosperma</i> spp. <i>Malephora</i> spp.		6"	12"	Sun	SE	Spring-fall	purple to yellow flowers	VL		Iceplant is the common name for 3 generas; fast-growing, groundcover for hot, dry sites; great for hanging baskets; has thick green succulent leaves; attracts bees and butterflies; no pruning necessary
Leadwort Plumbago Ceratostigma plumbaginoides		6-12"	3-5'	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Blue flowers	L		Deep blue flowers and green foliage with burgundy tinge in cool weather; cut back if needed in winter
Liriope Liriope muscari		12-18"	12"	Sun/Part Shade	E	Summer	Purple Spikes	M		Grass-like clumps of evergreen foliage; requires more water in sun; cultivars of varying height available; check plant label for details; cut back in winter if needed
Monkey Grass (Mondo Grass) Ophiopogon japonicus		4-8"	12+"	Shade	Е			M		Great lawn alternative in shade; provide fertile, well-drained soil; clusters of flowers close to the leaves; dwarf form also available; do not plant near preserves; cut back in winter if needed
Mountain Pea Orbexilum pedunculatum	1	8-12"	2-3'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Spring	Purple flowers	L		Loose-textured, fast-growing, spreading groundcover; good substitutue for Asian Jasmine; limited commercial availability; shear occasionally to promote compact growth
Oregano Origanum vulgare		10"-2'	2'	Sun	Ε	Summer	White to rosy pink	L-M		Sprawling plant; pungently aromatic; flavorful leaves used in cooking; cut back to 3"in winter if needed
Pigeonberry Rivina humilis	B/E	1-1.5'	2'	Shade	D	Spring to fall	White/pink flowers	M	х	Spreads rapidly; tolerates moist or dry soil; tiny attractive red berries are prized by birds; may go dormant in summer; limited commercial availability; prune for natural look



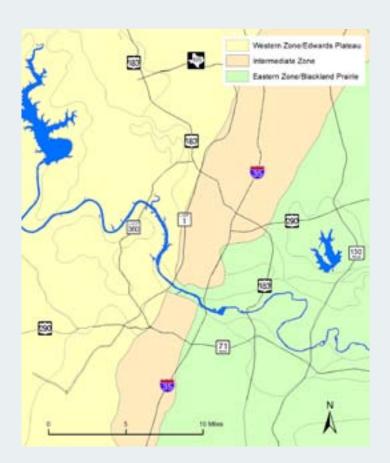
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	Purple Heart Setcreasea pallida		1'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring to fall	Purple leaves w/pink flowers	L		Requires more water in sun but very drought tolerant once established; roots may rot in poorly drained soil; not fully cold hardy in severe winter unless in protected location; prune to direct and control growth
	Sage, Lyre Leaf Salvia lyrata	T	1-2'	1'	Sun/Part Shade	E	Spring	White to purplish blue flowers	L-M	х	Great for dry shade but can grow in full sun; reseeds easily so may move in garden; attracts hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies
	Santolina (Lavender Cotton) Santolina chamaecyparissus		1-2'	1-2'	Sun	E	Spring	Yellow flowers	VL		Shrubby groundcover; fine-textured, aromatic evergreen foliage; requires excellent drainage; not long-lived; green leaf species also available
	Sedges <i>Carex</i> spp.		varies		Sun/Part Shade	Е	Year-round	Evergreen leaves	most are L		Grassy, clumplike foliage; plant in masses for groundcover; Berkeley <i>C. tumicola</i> ; Meadow <i>C. perdentata</i> ; Texas, <i>C. texensis;</i> check label for specifics on height, hardiness and water needs; no pruning necessary
	Sedum (Stonecrop) Sedum spp.		6"	1'	Sun/Part Shade	Е	Summer	White	L		Succulent plants with many species, leaf types, flower colors; check label for specifics; good drainage required; withstands shallow, poor soil; no pruning necessary
	Silver Ponyfoot Dichondra argentea	Т	2-4"	2.5'	Sun/Part Shade	SE	Year round	Silver-gray leaves	L	х	Attractive silver gray foliage on low-growing runners; good drainage is critical; do not over water; native to west Texas; no pruning required
	Snakeherb Dyschoriste linearis	T	6-12"	1.5'	Sun/Part Shade		Late spring to summer	Lavender flowers	L		Prefers dry caliche soils; upright stems, blooms mainly in spring but on/off through fall after rain; no pruning required
	Verbena spp.		varies up to 18"		Sun	SE	Spring to fall	varies	L	х	Spreading habit; fine-textured leaves; needs good drainage; attracts butterflies; there are many types of verbenas available commercially check labels for details; native Praire Verbena is <i>V.bipinnatifida;</i> cut back to 3" if needed in winter
	Violets Viola missourensis	T	4-6"	8-10"	Shade	D	Spring	Violet flowers		х	Reseeds easily; will move around in garden; lighter purple bloom than houseplant
	Wavy Scaly Cloak Fern Astrolepis sinuata	Т	1'	3'	Sun/Part Shade	SE		Feathery fronds;			Xeric fern; drought tolerant; low water use; heat and cold tolerant; may go partially dormant with less water; no pruning needed
	Wooly Stemodia Stemodia lanata	Т		3'+	Sun/Part Shade	D	Summer	Purple blooms	L	х	Delicate purple blooms contrast with gray foliage; good cascading plant for pots; needs good drainage; prune unattractive foliage

Sustainable landscape practices promote reducing turfgrass use because of its potential high water use and higher maintenance from mowing and nutritional needs. If you decide to use turf then choose it wisely and keep the area small. If you decide not to use turf consider using one of the groundcovers listed in this guide as a lawn alternative. If you already have a lawn, check out the Grow Green Lawn Care and Lawn Problems fact sheets.

No turfgrass is perfect for all sites in Central Texas. Austin Water watering restrictions may be more limiting during times of drought, so it is best to select one of the warm-season turfgrasses listed below. During extended periods of drought these grasses will turn brown, wilt and go semi-dormant. They also go dormant during the winter months.

## Turfgrass species and variety selection depends largely on the following considerations:

- Water use
- Amount of sun or shade
- Use and how much foot traffic it will receive
- Maintenance requirements



 Soil depth and quality: Regardless of the species, to use the least amount of water you must provide at least 4-6" of tilled, or otherwise un-compacted soil, which will encourage turfgrasses to develop deep, extensive root systems that allow them to persist. If you have a site with limited or compacted soil, suitable turfgrass quality may be difficult to maintain during periods of drought

# What are the most common types of soil in the Austin area?

## There are three main types:

- 1. Western Zone, Edwards Plateau: Rocky hills west of MOPAC/ Loop On the west side of town the highly alkaline limestone and caliche soils are shallow and the rock can be exposed. In those areas the soil depth can be a matter of inches.
- 2. Intermediate Zone, Combination and Disturbed Soils: In the central parts of Austin (running north and south) where the Eastern and Western Zones intersect and overlap there are intermediate areas that are a mix of shallow to moderately deep soils intermingled in areas with soil brought in during construction. Due to the potential variability, identify specific soil types on your site to determine your best approach.
- 3. Eastern Zone, Blackland Prairie: Imagine a line that runs parallel to IH 35 but 4-5 miles further east; that is the beginning of the deep, dark, clay prairie soils. Due to their tiny particle sizes, heavy clay soils do not have a lot of air spaces and typically do not drain very quickly. Adding compost or expanded shale improves its aeration and drainage.

# Warm-season Turfgrasses from Low to Medium water use:



Zoysiagrass (Zoysia japonica):

#### Low - medium water use / Full sun or partial shade / Tolerates some foot traffic.

Zoysiagrass spreads by rhizomes and stolons producing a dense turf. Within the zoysiagrass genus, *japonica* species are typically coarse-textured while *matrella* species are typically finer textured. However, much like Bermudagrass there are also interspecific crosses of each. Zoysiagrasses require less mowing and fertilization than Bermudagrass and are often considered lower maintenance for those reasons. It is best established from sod due to slow germination and growth that make it difficult to establish from seed. Like Bermudagrass, be sure to stay ahead of the rhizome and stolon growth into planting beds as it is wicked to try and eradicate if it is left to invade. It is slower than Bermudagrass in invading but will do so... and even in shaded beds!

Sod: 'Palisades', 'Jamur', 'El Toro', or 'Crowne'

Seed: 'Zenith' and 'Compadre'



#### Buffalograss

Buchloe dactyloides

#### Very low water use / Full sun / Tolerates light foot traffic

It does not have a dense canopy so it is more susceptible to weed invasions than other turfgrasses. Fewer weeds will invade with a more natural look by mowing 2 to 4 times per year on the highest mowing height adjustment. It does best in areas with 25 inches or less of annual rainfall. Overseeding turf or mixing the seed with other shortgrass species is one way to produce a denser turf.

See Shortgrass Prairie Seed Mixes

Sod: '609', 'Density', 'Prairie', 'Prestige'

Seeds: Common, 'Texoka', 'Bison', 'Bowie', 'Comanche', 'Topgun'



#### **Shortgrass Prairie Seed Mixes**

#### Low water use / Full sun / Tolerates light foot traffic

Several commercial native seed mixes are available that combine Buffalograss, *Buchloe dactyloides*, Curly Mesquite, *Hilaria belangeri* and Blue Grama Grass, *Bouteloua gracilis*; short wildflowers can also be added to create a short-grass meadow.

Seeds: Native grasses (wildflowers) mix



Bermudagrass hybrids that do not produce viable seed

#### Low-medium water use / Full sun / Tolerates high foot traffic.

Bermudagrass produces a dense canopy and is the most widely used turfgrass species for golf course and athletic turf in the southern United States. It is also popular for home lawns. The hybrids have a finer leaf texture than common types and create a denser turf that performs better under more frequent use, mowing, watering and fertilization. Hybrid varieties of Bermudagrass (interspecific crosses of *C. dactylon* and *C. transvaalensis*) are most often planted as sod and produce seedheads that are sterile. As a result, most hybrids do not pose the same invasive threat as Common Bermuda types and are preferred for use in the landscape. All Bermudagrass varieties have the potential to be invasive to neighboring plant beds and gardens due to their aggressive growth from rhizomes and stolons.

Sod, plugs or sprigs: 'Celebration', 'GN1', 'Grimes EXP', 'Tex Turf', 'TifSport', 'Tifway 419'

**Special Note: Common Bermuda,** *Cynodon dactylon* Common Bermuda is listed as one of Austin's Top 24 Invasive Plants in the City's Invasive Species Management Plan and is not accepted on Austin Water's Xeriscape Plant list. It is not recommended for use in home lawns. Common Bermudagrass, as well as improved varieties of Common, that are left unmowed produce viable seeds that can escape the garden may invade natural areas.

# How much rainfall does Austin receive per year?

On average 32 inches of rain per year with very little in summer.

## How hot and cold does it get?

**Heat:** The average temperature highs in the summer months are above 90° F, so plants that need cool summer temperatures, like peonies, lilacs or fuchsias, will not do well. Summer heat is the biggest stress when planting, so the best time to plant is the fall; worst time to plant late spring – summer.

**Cold:** Austin is in Zone 8b where the average extreme minimum is  $15 - 20^{\circ}$  F. Our temperatures don't usually go below  $20^{\circ}$  F – but in severe winters they can. Plants that are susceptible to damage in severe winters should be planted in protected areas, such as on the south or west side of your house and well-mulched before cold weather arrives.

## Where can I get information about rain gardens?

Rain Gardens - A rain garden is a low vegetated area that absorbs and filters rain water runoff that comes from roofs, sidewalks, and driveways. Many of the plants featured in this guide can be expected to grow successfully in a residential rain garden. Visit **www.austintexas.gov/raingardens** to learn how to build one.

## Why was the deer resistance rating removed from this version of the guide?

**Deer Resistance -** This rating was removed from this version because after consulting numerous information sources it is clear that there is very little consensus on which plants specifically are "deer resistant." To be safe, all woody plants in areas with deer need to be protected when the plants are young and until they can grow above the browse line. Plant characteristics that may deter deer:

- · Aromatic plants like rosemary, most of the salvias and lantanas
- Prickly, spiny or thorny foliage or stems like agarita, cactus, sotols (deer often eat the flowers)
- Bad-tasting sap like star jasmine
- Fuzzy leaves like Texas sage and lamb's ear
- Other approaches to deter deer include fencing, repellents and scare devices.

# Where can I find out more information about which plants to choose when designing a fire-resistant landscape?

**Firewise Plants -** Building a fire-resistant landscape isn't as simple as only looking at plant selection. It includes a variety of factors from the slope of the landscape, building materials in and around the home to choosing the right plant for the right location. For more details on determining the right plant for the right place and how you can help build defensible space around your home visit: **www.austintexas.gov/WildfireEnviroBMPs** 

### Where can I find more information about plants that are poisonous to humans and pets?

Poisonous Plants - This guide includes some comments on plant's toxicity but it should not be considered exhaustive resource on the topic. For poisoning emergencies call the American Association of Poison Control Centers at (800) 222-1222

For more information on common plants that are poisonous to animals visit www.aspca.org/pet-care/posion-control plants.

You may also call ASPCA Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 (there may be a consulting fee).

#### **AUSTIN'S TOP INVASIVE PLANTS TO AVOID**

Invasive plants are those that spread into areas where they are not native. Their introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

The following plants have already invaded preserves and greenbelts in Austin. They spread by seeds, berries and spores that can be easily transported long distances. For more information about Austin's invasive species, visit **www.austintexas.gov/invasive** 

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otanical Name

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Cour	Botal	Mo. Lyton
Bermudagrass, Common	Cynodon dactlyon	Hybrid Bermudgrasses (with sterile seeds)
Catclaw Vine	Macfadyena unguis-cati	Carolina Jessamine, Crossvine
Chinaberry	Melia azedarach	Chinquapin Oak, Texas Red Oak
Chinese Parasol Tree	Firmiana simplex	Arizona Cypress
Chinese Pistache	Pistacia chinensis	Chinquapin Oak, Texas Red Oak
Chinese Tallow	Triadica sebifera	Bigtooth Maple, Texas Redbud, Red Oak
Chinese Wisteria	Wisteria sinensis	Passion Vine
Elephant Ear	Colocasis esculenta	Arrowhead, Crinum Lily, Tuckahoe
Japanese Hollyfern	Cyrtomium falcatum	River Fern
Japanese Honeysuckle	Lonicera japonica	Coral Honeysuckle
Johnsongrass	Sorghum halepense	Little Bluestem, Bushy Bluestem
Kudzu	Pueraria montana var. lobata	Virginia Creeper
Lilac Chaste Tree	Vitex agnus-castus	Mexican Buckeye
Paper Mulberry	Broussonetia papyrifiera	Cherry Laurel, Texas Persimmon
Phontina, Red Tip	Photinia x fraseri	Cherry Laurel, Possumhaw, Silktassel
Photina, Tawainese	Photinia serratifolia	Cherry Laurel, Possumhaw, Silktassel
Privets, Large Leaf	Ligustrum japonicum,	Cherry Laurel, Yaupon
Privets, Small Leaf	L. lucidum, L. vulgare Ligustrum quhoui, L. sinense	Possumhaw, Wax Myrtle, Yaupon
Sacred Bamboo	Nandina domestica	Bush Germander, Texas Sage
Scarlet Firethorn	Pyracantha coccinea	Evergreen Sumac, Yaupon
Tree of Heaven	Ailanthus altissima	Chinquapin Oak, Lacey Oak

These plants travel by runners and rhizomes. While they are not generally transported long distances, they can invade nearby or "downstream" areas. Avoid planting near parks and preserves.

English Ivy	Hedera helix	Leadwort Plumbago Mountain Pea
Vinca	Vinca major & V. minor	Leadwort Plumbago Mountain Pea
Wisteria (non-native species)	Wisteria sinensis, W. floribunda	Passion Vine
Golden Bamboo	Phyllostachys aurea	Evergreen Yaupon, Bamboo Muhly





Already have these plants? Most plants can be controlled by trimming back berries, seedheads or runners.

THIS PLANT LIST IS ONLY A RECOMMENDATION AND HAS NO LEGAL EFFECT IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. IT IS LAWFUL TO SELL, DISTRIBUTE, IMPORT OR POSSESS A PLANT ON THIS LIST UNLESS THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LABELS THE PLANT AS NOXIOUS OR INVASIVE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PLANT LIST.

Common Name	Page #								
Abelia, Glossy	15	Cuphea, 'David Verity'	27	Horseherb	47	Passion Vine	45	Santolina (Lavender Cotton)	) 49
Agarita	15	Cypress, Arizona	7	Huisache	11	Pecan	9	Sedge, Meadow	41
Agave spp.	39	Cypress, Bald	7	Hymenoxys (Four Nerve Daisy)	31	Penstemon, Gulf Coast	33	Sedges	49
Alamo Vine	43	Cypress, Montezuma	7	Iceplant	47	Penstemon, Hill Country	33	Sedum (Stonecrop)	49
American Beautyberry	15	Daisy, Blackfoot	27	Indiangrass	41	Penstemon, Rock	33	Senna, Flowering	23
Anacacho Orchid Tree	9	Daisy, Chocolate	27	Indigo Spires	31	Persimmon, Texas	13	Senna, Lindheimer	37
Anacua (Sandpaper Tree)	9	Daisy, Copper Canyon	27	Inland Seaoats	41	Phlox, Garden	33	Shrimp Plant	37
Apache Plume	15	Daisy, Engelmann	27	Iris, Bicolor	31	Pigeonberry	47	Sideoats Grama	43
Aralia, Japanese	17	Dalea, Black	17	Japanese Yew	19	Pineapple Guava	21	Silktassel, Mexican	13
Arroyo Sweetwood	9	Dalea, Gregg	45	Jasmine, Star	45	Pittosporum	21	Silver Ponyfoot	49
Artemisia	25	Damianita	29	Kidneywood	11	Plumbago	33	Skeletonleaf Goldeneye	37
Ash, Texas	7	Datura or Jimson Weed	29	Lamb's Ear	31	Plum, Mexican	13	Skullcap, Heartleaf	37
Aztec Grass	45	Desert Broom	17	Lantana (hybrid)	31	Pomegranate	13	Skullcap, Pink	37
Baptisia, Purple (Wild Indigo	o) 17	Desert Willow	11	Lantana, Texas	31	Primrose, Missouri	35	Skullcap, Wright's Purple	37
Barbados Cherry	17	Elbow Bush	17	Lantana, Trailing	33	Purple Coneflower	35	Skyflower, Duranta	23
Basket Grass (Sacahuista)	39	Elm, Cedar	7	Leadwort Plumbago	47	Purple Heart	49	Snakeherb	49
Beebalm	25	Esperanza/Yellow Bells	29	Lion's Tail	33	Redbud, Mexican	13	Society Garlic	37
Bird of Paradise, Red	25	Eve's Necklace	11	Liriope	47	Redbud, Texas	13	Sotol, Texas	39
Bird of Paradise, Yellow	25	Fall Aster	29	Mallow, Globe	19	Retama	13	Spider Lily	37
Black-eyed Susan	25	Fern, Firecracker	29	Maple, Bigtooth	7	Rock Rose	35	Spiderwort	39
Bluestem, Little	41	Fern, River	29	Maximilian Sunflower	33	Rose, Belinda's Dream	21	Sumac, Evergreen	13
Bottlebrush	17	Fig Vine	43	Mexican Flame Vine	45	Rose, 'Cecile Brunner'	21	Sumac, Flameleaf	15
Buckeye, Mexican	9	Firebush	29	Mexican Mint Marigold	33	Rose, 'Grandma's Yellow'	21	Sumac, Fragrant (Aromatic)	
Buckeye, Red	9	Flame Acanthus	17	Mistflower, White	19	Rose, Knock Out	21	Sweet Almond Verbena	23
Bulbine	25	Fragrant Mimosa	19	Mock Orange	19	Rose, Lady Banksia	45	Switchgrass	43
Butterfly Bush, Wooly	17	Frogfruit	47	Monkey Grass	47	Rose, Livin' Easy	21	Sycamore, Mexican	9
Butterfly Weed, Mexican	25	Frostweed	29	Mountain Laurel,	13	Rose, Marie Daly	21	Texas Betony	39
Cactus, Prickly Pear	39	Gaura	29	Mountain Pea	47	Rose, Marie Pavie	21	Thyrallis, (Golden Showers)	
Calylophus	25	Gayfeather	29	Muhly, Bamboo	41	Rose, Martha Gonzales	21	Trumpet Vine	45
Carolina Buckthorn	11	Germander, Bush	19	Muhly, Big	41	Rose, Mutabilis	21	Turk's Cap	23 49
Carolina Jessamine	43	Germander, Creeping	47	Muhly, Deer	43	Rose, Nearly Wild '	23	Verbena spp.	
Cast Iron Plant	25	Germander, Green	31	Muhly, Gulf	43	Rose, Old Blush	23	Viburnum, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, Sandankwa	15 15
Catmint	25	Ghost Plant	31	Muhly, Pine	43	Rosemary, Upright	23	Violets	49
Cedar, Eastern Red	7	Goldenball Leadtree	11	Nolina	39	Roughleaf Dogwood	13	Virginia Creeper	49 45
Cherry, Black	7	Golden Groundsel	47	Oak, Bur	7	Ruellia, Dwarf	35	Walnut, Little	15
Cherry Laurel	11	Greek Myrtle	19	Oak, Chinquapin	7	Sage, Cedar	35	Wavy Scaly Cloak Fern	49
Chile Pequin	27	Gregg Mistflower	31	Oak, Lacey	9	Sage, Cherry (Autumn Sage)	35	Wavy Scaly Gloak Ferri	15
Clover Fern	45	Hawthorn, Indian	19	Oak. Mexican White	9	Sage, Jerusalem	35	Wax Myrtie Winecup, Perennial	39
Columbine	27	Hibiscus, Perennial	31	Oak, Southern Live	9	Sage, Lyre Leaf	49	Winccup, refermal Wisteria, Texas	45
Columbine, Red	27	Holly, Dwarf Burford	19	Oak, Texas Red	9	Sage, Majestic	35	Wooly Stemodia	49
Coralbean	27	Holly, Dwarf Yaupon	19	Obedient Plant, Fall	33	Sage, Mealy Blue	35	Xylosma	15
Coralberry	17	Holly, Nellie R. Stevens	19	Olive, Mexican	13	Sage, Mexican Bush	35	Yarrow	39
Coreopsis, Lance-leaf	27	Holly, Possumhaw	11	Oregano	47	Sage, Penstemon/Big Red Sage	e 35	Yucca, Paleleaf	41
Cotoneaster	17	Holly, Yaupon	11	Oregano, Mexican	33	Sage, Russian	37	Yucca, Red	41
Crape Myrtle	11	Honey Mesquite	7	Palmetto, Texas Dwarf	21	Sage, San Luis	37	Yucca spp.	41
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<b>Botanical Name</b>	Page	#							
Abelia x grandiflora	15	Coreopsis lanceolata	27	Lantana montevidensis	33	Phlomis fruticosa	35	Salvia guaranitica	35
Acacia farnesiana	11	Cornus drummondii	13	Lantana urticoides	31	Phlox paniculata	33	Salvia 'Indigo Spires'	31
Acer grandidentatum	7	Cotoneaster spp.	17	Lantana x hybrida	31	Phyla nodiflora	47	Salvia leucantha	35
Achillea spp.	39	Cuphea, 'David Verity'	27	Leonotis leonurus	33	Phystostegia virginiana	33	Salvia lyrata	49
Aesculus pavia var. pavia	11	Cuphea llavea	27	Leucaena retusa	11	Pittosporum tobira	21	Salvia microphylla	37
Agave spp.	39	Cupressus arizonica	7	Leucophyllum frutescens	23	Platanus mexicana	9	Salvia penstemonoides	<i>35</i>
Ageratina havanensis	19	Dalea frutescens	17	Liatris mucronata	29	Plumbago auriculata	33	Salvia roemeriana	35
Aloysia virgata	23	Dalea greggii	47	Liriope muscari	47	Podocarpus macrophyllus	19	Santolina chamaecyparissus	49
Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wright	tii 17	Dasylirion texanum	39	llex vomitoria	11	Poliomintha longiflora	33	Schizachyrium scoparium	41
Aptenia spp.	47	Datura wrightii	29	Lonicera sempervirens	43	Prosopis glandulosa var. glandulosa	7	Scutellaria suffrutescens	37
Aquilegia canadensis	27	<i>Delosperma</i> spp.	47	Mahonia trifoliata	15	Prunus caroliniana	11	Scutellaria wrightii	37
Aquilegia chrysantha var. Hinkleyana	a' <i>27</i>	Dichondra argentea	49	<i>Malephora</i> spp.	47	Prunus mexicana	13	Scuttelaria ovata subsp. bracteata	37
Artemisia 'Powis Castle'	25	Dietes bicolor	31	Malpighia glabra	17	Prunus serotina var. exima	7	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	49
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Aspidistra elatior	25	Duranta erecta	23	Marsilea macropoda	47	Punica granatum	13	Sophora secundiflora	13
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Baptisa australis	17	Engelmannia peristenia	27	Monarda fistulosa	25	Quercus polymorpha	9	Styphnolobium affine	11
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Berlandiera lyrata	27	Fallogia paradoxa	15	Muhlenbergia dubia	43	Raphiolepis indica	19	Taxodium distichum	7
Bignonia capreolata	43	Fatsia japonica	17	Muhlenbergia dumosa	41	Rhus aromatica	23	Taxodium mucronatum	7
Bouteloua curtipendula	43	Feijoa sellowiana	21	Muhlenbergia lindheimeri	41	Rhus lanceolata	15	Tecoma stans	29
Buddleja marrubiifolia	17	Ficus pumila	43	Muhlenbergia rigens	43	Rhus virens	13	Tetraneuris scaposa	31
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Caesalpinia gilliesii	25	Frangula caroliniana	11	Myrtus communis Nepeta x faasseni	i 19	Rosa banksiae	47	Teucrium cossonii	47
Caesalpinia pulcherrima	25	Fraxinus texensis	7	Nolina lindheimeriana	39	Rosa 'Belinda's Dream'	21	Teucrium fruticans	19
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Callirohoe involucrata	39	Garrya ovata spp. lindheimeri	13	Oenothera macrocarpa	<i>35</i>	Rosa 'Grandma's Yellow'	21	Trachelospermum jasminoides	47
Callistemon citrinus	17	Gaura lindheimeri	29	Ophiopogon intermedius	47	Rosa 'Knock Out'	21	Trachycarpus fortunei	13
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Conoclinium greggi	31	Justicia spicigera	31	Phaeralcea ambigua	19	Salvia farinacea	35	Yucca rupicola	41
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# For additional earthwise landscaping information and an online plant database, visit

# www.growgreen.org



**Photo Credits:** (L) = large image (S)= small inset image

Ray Mathews: Cover Far South Nursery: Arroyo Sweetwood (L, S), Catmint (L), Desert Broom (L), Greek Myrtle (L), Mountain Pea (L, S), Texas Dwarf Palmetto (L), Roughleaf Dogwood (L), San Luis Sage (L), Sweet Almond Verbena (L), White Mistflower (L) Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Andy and Sally Wasowski: Alamo Vine (L), Apache Plume (L), Beebalm (L), Flameleaf Sumac (S), Golden Groundsel (L), Huisache (L,S), Lyre Leaf Sage (S), Maximilian Sunflower (L), Purple Baptisia (L), Snakeherb (L), Switch Grass (S): Joseph A. Marcus: Carolina Buckthorn (L), Datura (L), Lyre Leaf Sage (L), Pine Muhly, Roughleaf Dogwood (L), Purple Wright's Skullcap (L), Wavy Scaly Cloak Fern (L); Lee Page: Mealy Blue Sage (L); Melody Lytle: Frostweed (S); Myra B. Allison: Frostweed (L); Norman **G. Flaigg:** Little Walnut (L, S); **Paul Cox:** Clover Fern (L); **R.W.** Smith: Purple Baptisia (S); Rachel Cywinski: Anacua (L); W.D. and Dolphia Bransford: Flameleaf Sumac(L), Spider Lily (L), Merideth O'Reilly: Anacua (S), Chocolate Daisy (L), Fragrant Sumac(S), Gregg Mistflower (S), Mexican Olive (L.S), Tropical Milkweed(S) Native Texas Nursery: Eve's Necklace (L, S), Texas Redbud (L, S) Plant Resources Center and Bio406d at the **University of Texas at Austin:** *Elbowbush (L), Gayfeather (S),* Texas Persimmon (S), Evergreen Sumac(L,S), Violets (L, S)

#### **Contributing Organizations:**

American Society of Landscape Architects, Austin Parks Foundation, Capital Area Master Naturalists, Countryside Nursery, Far South Growers, Keep Austin Beautiful, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, McNeal Growers, National Wildlife Federation, Native Texas Nursery, Texas A&M, The Great Outdoors, The Natural Gardener, Texas A&M Extension Service/Travis County, TreeFolks, Turfgrass Producers of Texas

## City Departments:

Austin Energy, Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Water Utility, Office of Sustainability, One Stop Shop –LUR, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, Watershed Protection Department With special thanks to all the City of Austin staff past and present, who have contributed to the guide.

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#### Comments:

We recognize that there are many other plants well deserving of selection and we welcome your comments and suggestions regarding any new additions and changes you think would be useful. Please call **512-974-2550** or email us through www.growgreen.org.





