

Shade-Loving Native Plants for South-Central Texas

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Welcome to shade gardening with native plants in South Central Texas. The following list contains native species that will thrive in varying degrees of shade in Bexar County and the surrounding area. Symbols following the names of each plant indicate the shade requirements for that particular species. Part shade "⊙" plants prefer roughly one half day of sun and one half day of shade. An ideal situation would be between four and six hours of sun in the morning and shade in the afternoon. Dappled shade "⊗" occurs when sunlight filters through the tree canopy. Less overall sunlight exposure occurs in dappled shade than in part shade. Full shade "●" means no more than two hours of direct sun or four hours of dappled shade. The full sun designation "○" has been omitted even though a few of the species will, under certain circumstances, do well in that type of lighting. In many instances, these plants require substantial amounts of supplemental water in order to survive and do well in full sun. For more detailed information on a particular species refer to the books listed in the bibliography.

Ground Covers

Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pseudocaudatum*) ⊙⊗●

Range: A, B. Height: 1–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. Once established, this species is more drought tolerant than other native ferns. Plant it in drifts among fallen leaves in a woodland setting.

* **Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) ⊙⊗ See perennials section.

* **Cedar Sage** (*Salvia roemeriana*) ⊙⊗● See perennials section.

* **Coralberry** (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) ⊙⊗

Range: A, B, C. Height: 1.5–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: greenish white to pinkish, April–July. Fruit: coral-red berry, late fall and winter. Winter Growth: evergreen to deciduous as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. Excellent for use as a tall groundcover in a woodland setting or for erosion control in poor soils. Cut Coralberry back each winter to promote dense growth and increased berry production. Fruits are eaten by at least 12 species of birds.

* **Dwarf Barbados Cherry** (*Malpighia glabra*) ⊙⊗ See shrubs section.

⊙ Part Shade ⊗ Dappled Shade ● Shade

* Available from select nurseries or seed catalogs

Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*) ☉●

Range: A, B. Height: 9–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 1–1.5 ft. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; moist, well drained. In South-Central Texas, the western extent of its natural range, Ebony Spleenwort will thrive among the rocks next to a small waterfall or along a stream leading to a pond in a native garden.

Fern Acacia (*Acacia angustissima*, *A. hirta*, or *A. texensis*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: white, May–August. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. Fern Acacia forms a softly shaped ground cover of medium height. Adds a South Texas Plains look to a native garden.

*** Frogfruit (*Phyla incisa*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 3–4 in. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: small white, May–October. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained or a few days of poor drainage okay. In its natural setting, Frogfruit can be found along the edges of lakes, creeks, and rivers. Keeping this in mind, plant this low ground cover in shady areas that receive a little additional moisture. Because it withstands some foot traffic, Frogfruit does well among the crevices of and surrounding a flagstone path. Attracts butterflies.

*** Horseherb or Straggler Daisy (*Calyptocarpus vialis*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 8–10 in. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: small yellow; blooms almost continually. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. This is one of the few plants that can form a dense cover in the shade with little supplemental water.

*** Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*)** ☉☉●

Range: B, C, D. Height: 1 foot. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Winter Growth: evergreen when it receives continuous moisture. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; well drained. Maidenhair Fern prefers ample moisture throughout the year but insists on a well-drained site. Plant in crevices among the limestone rocks surrounding a waterfall in a shade garden. Deer usually avoid Maidenhair Fern.

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) ☉☉

Range: A, D. Height: 2–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: white, early spring to midspring. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; well drained. New Jersey Tea does best when planted along the edge of a wooded area.

Redroot (*Ceanothus herbaceus*. Range: B, C), a close relative that thrives in crevices among limestone rocks on the Edwards Plateau, will be a more suitable

choice for the rocky soils of this region. Seeds of these two plants are eaten by several species of birds including bobwhite quail.

Oklahoma Plum (*Prunus gracilis*) ☉☉

Range: A. Height: 1.5–6 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5–3 ft. Flower: white, March–April. Fruit: red, July–August. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand; well drained. Excellent for use in a natural woodland. White flowers in early spring brighten shady sites. A close relative, **Creek Plum** (*P. rivularis*. Range: B, C), will thrive in the limestone soils or black clay soils of the Edwards Plateau and Blackland Prairie regions. Flowers of both species attract butterflies. Several species of birds enjoy the fruits.

***Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*)** ☉☉

Range: B, C, D. Height: 1–1.5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: pink and white, May–October. Fruit: red or orange berries, spring to fall. Winter Growth: evergreen or dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, well drained. Occasional watering will keep it from going semi-dormant. Remains covered in flowers and fruits for most of the warm season. The ripe fruits attract many species of birds.

***Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)** ☉☉ See perennials section.

***Southern Dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: trailing canes are 3–6 ft. Landscape Spacing: 4–6 ft. Flower: white, February–April. Fruit: black, May–June. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, poor drainage okay. The flowers attract many species of insects and the fruits are a favorite of birds. Provides good cover as well.

***Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus heptaphylla*)** ☉☉● See vines section.

Water Clover Fern (*Marsilea macropoda*) ☉☉●

Range: B, C, D. Height: 1 foot. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam; poor drainage okay. Because of its aggressiveness in moist soils, Water Clover Fern performs best in a garden setting if planted in somewhat drier sites. Remember that Water Clover Fern with its clover shaped leaves is a species of fern and not a type of clover.

Widow's Tears (*Commelina sp.*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1–2 feet. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: blue, spring–fall (morning only). Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Because it is fairly aggressive in a garden setting, Widow's Tears should be reserved for a naturalized woodland.

Wood fern or River Fern (*Thelypteris kunthii*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: 1–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; moist, poor drainage okay. One of our most adaptable native ferns. Works well in poorly drained soils next to a stream or small pond and creates an open ground cover.

Annuals

Annual Pennyroyal (*Hedeoma acinoides*) ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 6–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: pink, March–April. Winter Growth: n/a. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone, well drained. Great choice for a part shade pocket meadow or as an accent along a woodland path.

Baby Blue Eyes (*Nemophila phacelioides*) ☉☉

Range: B, C, D. Height: 6–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 9–12 in. Flower: pale blue and white, March–May. Winter Growth: n/a. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, well drained. Plant at the edge of a naturalized woodland. Allow it to go to seed and cut back by midsummer. Looks wonderful when cascading over a small ledge. Bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers.

***Black-eyed Susan or Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)** ☉☉

Range: A, D. Height: 1–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 9–12 in. Flower: yellow, May–September. Fruit: achenes, July–November. Winter Growth: n/a or can be a short-lived perennial. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well-drained. This beautiful annual does best with protection from afternoon sun. Bees, butterflies, and other insects are drawn to the flowers. Birds enjoy the seeds. Deer usually avoid Black-eyed Susan.

Blue Curlys (*Phacelia patuliflora*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 1–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 9–12 in. Flower: purple, March–April. Winter Growth: n/a or can be a biennial. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; moist, well drained. Its outwardly curling flowers add a unique look to a shady flower garden. Plant in an area that receives protection from the afternoon sun. Sow seed in the fall. Bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers. Please note that Blue Curlys may cause a minor rash on some people.

***Drummond Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)** ☉☉

Range: A, C. Height: 6–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: red, pink, white, peach, or lavender, March–June. Winter Growth: n/a. Soil: sand, well drained. Look for *Phlox drummondii* var. *McAllisteri*, which is native to the Edwards Plateau of Texas and has beautiful deep rose to pink flowers. Plant in an area that receives protection from the afternoon sun by sowing seed in the fall or from 4-inch pots planted in March. Flowers attract many species of insects.

False Dayflower (*Commelinantia anomala*) ☉☉●

Range: B, C. Height: 1-2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5 ft. Flower: lavender, April–July. Winter Growth: n/a. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. This is one of the few wildflowers that thrives in deep shade. In its natural habitat, False Dayflower forms beautiful drifts in rocky soils, in crevices among boulders and on wooded slopes. Mix with other natives that prefer deep shade like Cedar Sage, White Mistflower, or Straggler Daisy. False Dayflower is endemic to Texas.

Meadow Pink or Rose-Gentian (*Sabatia campestris*) ☉☉

Range: A, C, D. Height: 9–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: pink to rose with yellow centers, April–June. Winter Growth: n/a. Soil: sand, loam; moist, well drained. Plant in an area that receives protection from afternoon sun; would work well in a shady meadow. Self-seeds easily.

Perennials

***Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrichium* sp.)** ☉☉

Range: A,B,C,D. Height: 6–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: blue to violet, March–April. Winter Growth: forms rosette (dormant in summer). Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Beautiful when used as an accent along a part shade woodland path.

***Blue Mistflower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, D. Height: 1–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5–2 ft. Flower: lavender, April–December (primarily August and September). Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay; poor drainage okay. This plant is a butterfly magnet! Prune heavily in winter to promote dense growth and increased blooming in the spring.

***Boneset or White Mistflower (*Eupatorium serotinum*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5–2 ft. Flower: white, August–October. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, poor drainage okay. Use for erosion control or as a ground cover to brighten a shady area. A second species of White Mistflower with the common name **Thoroughwort** (*E. havanense*. Range: C), thrives in the Hill Country and grows to 3–5 feet. Showy white flowers of both species attract many butterflies.

***Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–2 ft. Flower: red, tubular in shape, May–October. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; poor drainage okay; prefers rich soil. Especially well suited as a ground cover in shady situations. Try mixing with other shade-loving natives in

moist soils around a pond. Attracts hummingbirds. Deer usually avoid Cardinal Flower.

* **Cedar Sage** (*Salvia roemeriana*) ☉☉●

Range: C. Height: 1 foot. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: red, tubular in shape, March–July. Winter Growth: rosette of small leaves at ground level. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Beautiful when used in small groupings or as a ground cover in shady situations. Provides an important early nectar source for the arrival of spring migrating hummingbirds. Deer usually avoid Cedar Sage.

* **Engelmann Daisy or Cutleaf Daisy** (*Engelmannia pinnatifida*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1.5–3.5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–3 ft. Flower: yellow, February–November. Winter Growth: rosette of small leaves at ground level. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Prolific wildflower across most of Texas. Wonderful addition to a part shade wildflower meadow. Attracts bees, butterflies, and other insects. Seeds are eaten by several species of birds.

Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: 3–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. Flower: white, August–November. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: loam; well drained.

Capitana (*Verbesina microptera*. Range: C, D) is a close relative that thrives on the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau and in South Texas. Attracts butterflies and other small insects. Hummingbirds have been observed feeding on the large numbers of small insects that enjoy the nectar and Monarch butterflies use this plant as a nectar source during their fall migration.

* **Heartleaf Hibiscus or Tulipan del Monte** (*Hibiscus martianus*) ☉☉

Range: D. Height: 1–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–3 ft. Flower: red, almost continually blooming until frost. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. Beautiful, drought tolerant hibiscus. Make sure it is in a well-drained area, especially if planted in clay soil. Bees, beetles, and other small insects are attracted to the flowers.

* **Lanceleaf Coreopsis** (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) ☉☉

Range: East Texas. Height: 1.5–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: yellow, April–June. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. This is a wonderful addition to a shady wildflower meadow, combining beautiful bright yellow blooms in the spring with a lush cover of evergreen foliage. Flowers attract bees and butterflies. Seeds enjoyed by several species of birds.

Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*) ☉☉

Range: A, B. Height: 2–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: greenish-white, March–May. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: loam; moist, poor

drainage okay. Meadow Rue thrives in rich moist soils and is a good accent in a woodland garden. Plant amidst ferns or use around a pond.

Missouri Violet (*Viola missouriensis*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: 3–6 in. Landscape Spacing: 6–12 in. Flower: lavender and white with purple markings toward the center, February–May. Winter Growth: green in winter; dies back to the ground in late summer until the first rains of fall. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Plant with other early spring bloomers like Mexican Plum and Texas Elbowbush.

***Mountain Sage (*Salvia regia*)** ☉☉

Range: Trans-Pecos. Height: 3–5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. Flower: red to orange, fall. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. This West Texas species of salvia is drought tolerant when planted in a dappled or part shade area, preferably with protection from the afternoon sun. Provides an important nectar source for fall migrating hummingbirds.

Prairie Celestial (*Nemastylis geminiflora*) ☉☉

Range: B, C. Height: 4–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 6 in. Flower: blue, March–May. Winter–Summer Growth: green in spring only; dies back to the ground the remainder of the year. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. The beautiful blue flowers and long, wide leaves of this perennial make it a wonderful addition to a shady wildflower meadow. Plant in smooth drifts alongside Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Drummond Phlox, Baby Blue Eyes, and other early spring bloomers. Various species of bees are attracted to the blue flowers.

Prairie Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*) ☉☉

Range: A,B,C,D. Height: 1–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: blue or white, April–June. Winter–Summer Growth: dies back in summer. Soil: sand, loam, or clay; well drained. Excellent for use in a part shade pocket meadow. Individual plants are not long-lived, so allow to self-seed. Attracts bees and other small insects.

***Rockrose or Pavonia (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)** ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 2–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. Flower: pink, March–November. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. Consider Rockrose for its long bloom period through much of the year. Place in an area that receives protection from the afternoon sun. Allow it to reseed itself as this plant only lives for 3–4 years. Attracts butterflies.

***Scarlet Sage or Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)** ☉☉

Range: D. Height: 2–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–2 ft. Flower: red, pink, or white, May–frost. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends

from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; a few days of poor drainage okay. When used as a groundcover, this plant can be kept low with trimming. Important early nectar source for butterflies and migrating hummingbirds.

*** Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis liriosme*) ☉☉**

Range: A. Height: 1.5–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–2 ft. Flower: white, May–July. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay; poor drainage okay. Plant in moist, shady areas, especially around a pond. Several species of insects are attracted to the flowers.

Texas Blue Star (*Amsonia ciliata*) ☉☉

Range: B, C. Height: 1–1.5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–2 ft. Flower: pale blue, March–April. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; moist, well drained. Prefers protection from the afternoon sun. Mix with other early spring blooming natives like Drummond Phlox, Prairie Celestial, and Baby Blue Eyes.

*** Violet Ruellia or Wild Petunia (*Ruellia nudiflora*) ☉☉**

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–1.5 ft. Flower: Violet or pink, March–December. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. "**Katy**" Ruelia (**purple flowers**) or "**Bonita**" Ruelia (**pink flowers**), dwarf varieties (6–12 in.), are beautiful when planted in masses or in rows along the front edges of beds.

Western Spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 1–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: blue to magenta, April–June. Winter–Summer Growth: dies back in summer. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone, well drained. Great as an accent along a woodland path.

*** Wild Blue Aster (*Aster* sp.) ☉☉●**

Range: A, B, C, D (various species). Height: 2–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft.; can be aggressive depending on species. Flower: purple, September–December. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Wonderful show of purple flowers in the fall. In part shade situations in our area try ***A. oblongifolius*** (Range: B, C). Both attract butterflies.

*** Winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*) ☉☉**

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 6–12 in. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: wine-red, March–June. Winter Growth: rosette of small leaves at ground level. Soil: sand, loam, clay, gravel; well drained. Use in a shady wildflower meadow or let it cascade over a low wall. Responds to extra moisture by blooming for a longer period. Make sure, however, that it has good drainage. Another species native to our area, **Standing Winecup** (*C. digitata*. Range: A, B, C, D), which grows to a

height of 1–3 feet, spreads easily and is best used in a part shade meadow. Both species attract bees and other insects.

***Yellow Columbine (*Aquilegia* sp.)** ☉●

Range: depends upon species. Height: 1–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Flower: yellow, March–May. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, limestone, igneous; moist, well drained. Of the four native yellow columbines, **Hinckley Columbine** (*A. chrysantha* var. *hinckleyana*. Range: Presidio County) will be the easiest to find in our local nurseries. Hinckley Columbine is rare in the wild and is endemic to Texas. All of these varieties, including **Wild Red Columbine** (*A. canadensis*. Range: C), hybridize with one another, leading to interesting mixed red and yellow blooms. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Deer usually avoid Columbine.

***Zexmenia (*Wedelia hispida*)** ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 1.5–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: Orange-yellow, May–November. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Works well when allowed to cascade over a small wall or over the edge of a raised flowerbed. Attracts butterflies. Deer usually avoid Zexmenia.

Shrubs

***American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 4–5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 5–7 ft. Fruit: purple berries, August–November. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained; likes rich soil. Excellent understory shrub with long arching branches. The fall fruit, bright purple berries, serves as a beautiful accent to the garden. Fruits devoured by several species of birds including bobwhite, mockingbirds, cardinals, thrashers, robins, finches, and towhees.

***Aromatic Sumac or Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 3–6 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. to form a thicket; 6 ft. as an accent plant. Flower: yellow, February–March. Fruit: red, May–June. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Leaves provide wonderful fall color. Provides early spring nectar source for butterflies and moths. Fruits are among the earliest to ripen in the spring, making this an important food source for several species of birds. Larval host plant for the Red-banded hairstreak butterfly.

***Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*)** ☉☉

Range: D. Height: 3–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5–2.5 ft. Flower: white to pale pink, March–December. Fruit: red, May–December. Winter Growth: evergreen above 25°F. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, well drained. Excellent for use as a

☉ Part Shade ● Dappled Shade ● Shade

* Available from select nurseries or seed catalogs

groundcover since it can be trimmed to 3 inches. **Dwarf Barbados Cherry**, which grows to a height of 2 feet, works well in a patio pot and also produces fruit. Fruits attract many species of birds. Larval host plant of Cassius blue and White patch butterflies.

Beebrush or Whitebrush (*Aloysia gratissima*) ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 4–8 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3–4 ft. Flower: white after rains, March–November. Winter Growth: evergreen to deciduous as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; moist, a few days of poor drainage okay. Plant for use as a screen in moist, shady areas. Fragrant flowers attract bees and other insects. Fruits eaten by several species of birds. Also provides good cover and nesting sites for small birds. Flowers are poisonous to horses, mules, and burros.

*** Chile Pequin (*Capsicum annum*)** ☉☉●

Range: C, D. Height: 2–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: white, almost continuously blooming. Fruit: red, April–November. Winter Growth: deciduous to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; moist, well drained. One of the few small shrubs that thrive in full shade conditions. Its dark green leaves serve as a nice backdrop for the small white flowers and bright red chiles it produces. It can also be grown in a patio pot. The fruits are a favorite of many species of birds and can be used as seasoning for those of us who enjoy spicy foods.

Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: 3–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 4–6 ft. Flower: white on 1–6 foot stalk, May–June. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay; poor drainage okay. Dwarf Palmetto is a plant that thrives in moist soils in or surrounding bogs and swamps. Although more abundant in East Texas, it will thrive in shady, moist conditions in our area. Plant in poorly drained sites around a backyard bog or pond. Provides year round cover for birds. Fruits eaten by several species of birds. To view these palms in their native habitat visit Palmetto State Park, located just east of San Antonio.

*** Dwarf Wax Myrtle (*Myrica pusilla*)** ☉☉

Range: East Texas. Height: 2–6 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5–2 ft. Flower: inconspicuous. Fruit: small, pale blue berries on females, May–October. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay; poor drainage okay. Thicket-forming growth habit provides excellent cover and nesting sites for small birds. Berries devoured by over 40 species of birds.

*** Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus wrightii*)** ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 3–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3 ft. Flower: orange, June–September. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone;

well drained. Flowers attract many species of butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds. Larval host plant for Crescentspot butterflies. Does very well in a patio pot. Deer usually avoid Flame Acanthus.

***Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)** ☉☉

Range: C. Height: leaves 2–3 ft; flower stalks 5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 4 ft. Flower: coral or salmon-pink, May–November. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Red Yucca, which is a succulent and not a true yucca, is a widely adaptable plant that provides vertical texture and has a long blooming period. The red blooms attract ruby-throated and black-chinned hummingbirds. Deer will eat the flowers but usually leave the remainder of the plant alone.

Silktassel or Mexican Silktassel (*Garrya lindheimeri*) ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 3–12 ft. Landscape Spacing: 6–12 ft. Fruit: bluish-gray, tassel-like drupe, September–November. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Found on rocky slopes and along streams. Beautiful as an accent or when planted in drifts along the open path of a shade garden or along woodland edges. Deer usually avoid this plant. Silktassel is endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 10–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 10–12 ft. Fruit: bright red drupe, August–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: loam, caliche, limestone; moist, well drained. Use as a beautiful, fast-growing accent shrub in a moist area of a shade garden. Spicebush gains its name from the aromatic quality of its leaves, twigs, bark, and fruit. Fruit enjoyed by at least 24 species of birds. Provides good cover and nesting sites for birds as well. Larval host plant for the Spicebush and Tiger swallowtail butterflies.

***Texas Elbowbush (*Forestiera pubescens*)** ☉☉

Range: B, C. Height: 3–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 5–7 ft. Flower: greenish yellow, February. Fruit: purple-black drupe, late summer and fall. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. Texas Elbowbush thrives in shady locations with poor soils. Due to its sprawling growth habit, use as a background shrub. Excellent for erosion control as well. Because it blooms in late winter, Texas Elbowbush provides an early nectar source for various species of bees and butterflies. Fruits are devoured by several species of birds.

***Texas Mock Orange (*Philadelphus texensis*)** ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 3–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3–4 ft. Flower: white, April–May. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Beautiful small shrub that thrives in rocky, well-drained soils and part shade. Needs supplemental water initially and prefers protection from the afternoon sun.

Because blooms only occur on wood from the previous year, prune Mock Orange after it flowers in the spring. Endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas.

***Twistleaf Yucca (*Yucca rupicola*)** ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 1.5–2 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1–2 ft. Flower: white on stalk 1–2 ft. above foliage, April–May. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. Found on limestone hills and open woodlands. Beautiful twisting leaves make this a unique accent for a shade garden. Endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas. Fairly resistant to deer.

***Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus drummondii*)** ☉☉●

Range: C, D. Height: 3–5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3–5 ft. Flower: red, May–November. Fruit: red cherry-like, August–September. Winter Growth: evergreen to dies back to the ground as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; moist, well drained. Will thrive and bloom well in extreme shade. Red flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Fruits eaten by several species of birds. Deer usually avoid Turk's Cap.

Small Trees

***Anacacho Orchid Tree (*Bauhinia lunarioides*)** ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 6–12 ft. Landscape Spacing: 6–12 ft. Flower: white or pale pink, March–May. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; well drained. Beautiful understory tree with light green, hoof-shaped leaves. Fast growing and seems to prefer limestone soils. This tree is rare in the wild, growing only in a small area on the Edwards Plateau. Endemic to canyons of the Anacacho Mountains in Texas.

***Anacua or Sandpaper Tree (*Ehretia anacua*)** ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 20–30 ft. Landscape Spacing: 20 ft. Flower: white after rains, March–November. Fruit: yellow-orange drupe, April–June. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. Named for its rough leaf texture. Makes a beautiful understory tree, eventually maturing to canopy height. Fruits devoured by many species of small birds. Anacua tends to sucker in some instances.

Blanco Crabapple (*Pyrus ioensis*) ☉☉

Range: C. Height: 15–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 20 ft. Flower: soft pink, April–June. Fruit: greenish-yellow pome, September–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. To keep this plant healthy, add a good layer of mulch or plant a shade-loving ground cover like Dwarf Barbados Cherry over its root zone. Blanco Crabapple tends to sucker in some instances. Bees, butterflies and other insects are attracted to the flowers. Fruits are a favorite with many songbirds.

☉ Part Shade ☉ Dappled Shade ● Shade

* Available from select nurseries or seed catalogs

Brasil, Bluewood Condalia or Capul Negro (*Condalia hookeri*) ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 12–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 15ft. Fruit: blue-black drupe, September–October. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained. Rewarding accent tree with beautiful, lime-green foliage. *Condalia hookeri* var. *edwardsiana* (Range C) is endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas. Thicket-forming habit and thorns provide cover and nesting sites for small birds. Fruits enjoyed by several species of birds including robins, bluebirds, cardinals, towhees, sparrows, finches, and mockingbirds. Larval host plant for the Snout butterfly.

***Carolina Buckthorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 12–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 8–12 ft. Fruit: red berries turning black when ripe, August–October. Winter Growth: evergreen to deciduous as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; poor drainage okay. Attractive small tree for shady sites around a pond or other areas with moist soils. Leaves turn a bright yellow in fall. Berries are eaten by several species of birds including thrashers, robins, mockingbirds, cardinals, and finches. Larval host plant for the Gray hairstreak butterfly.

***Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)** ☉☉

Range: B, C. Height: 15–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 10 ft. Flower: pinkish-white, March–May. Fruit: black legume, fall and winter. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Wonderful understory tree with beautiful, wisteria-like clusters of flowers. Attracts diurnal moths and butterflies. Fast growing. Eve's Necklace tends to sucker in some instances.

Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 10–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 15–20 ft. Flower: greenish-white clusters, March–July. Fruit: reddish brown samara, August–September. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone, well drained. Prefers protection from drought. Plant as an understory tree where a little extra moisture is available. Nectar attracts many butterfly species. Larval host plant for three species of swallowtail butterflies.

***Mexican Buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 8–12 ft. Landscape Spacing: 10–12 ft. Flower: pink, March–May. Fruit: capsule, September–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. This is not a true buckeye and can be distinguished by leaf shape. Mexican Buckeye has pinnately compound leaves, similar to that of a pecan, while true buckeyes have palmately compound leaves. Beautiful pink flowers attract bees, butterflies, and diurnal moths in early spring. Seeds are eaten by several species of birds. Larval host plant for Henry's elfin butterflies. Deer usually avoid Mexican Buckeye.

***Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 15–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 20 ft. Flower: white, February–April. Fruit: reddish-purple drupe, July–September. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Plant as an understory tree with Texas Redbud for a beautiful mix of white and pink flowers in early spring. Flowers attract bees, butterflies, and diurnal moths. Fruits enjoyed by several species of birds. Larval host plant for the Tiger swallowtail butterfly.

***Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 12–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 12–15 ft. Fruit: red drupe on female plants, fall and winter. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche; a few days of poor drainage okay. Vibrant red berries remain after leaves drop in the fall. Needs 6 hours of sun to fully set fruit. Berries eaten by at least 9 species of birds. Deer usually avoid Possumhaw.

***Red Buckeye or Scarlet Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia* var. *pavia*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: 10–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 6–12 ft. Flower: red, March–May. Fruit: capsule, August–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. Red Buckeye has 5 leaflets on each palmately compound leaf. Its range extends from the eastern edge of the Hill Country to East Texas. *Aesculus pavia* var. *flavescens*, another subspecies of this buckeye, grows further west in the Hill Country and has greenish-yellow flowers. Hybrids of the two varieties occur where their respective ranges meet and are especially abundant in Hays, Kendall, Comal, and Bexar counties. Flowers of these hybrids are greenish-yellow with red tinges or a deep red throat. Plant as an understory tree in areas with deep shade. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 35–40 ft. Landscape Spacing: 30–35 ft. Fruit: red to black aggregate, April–August. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; well drained. This plant is one of the main food sources for neotropical migrating birds; 21 species are known to eat the ripe fruits. Larval host plant for the Mourning cloak butterfly.

Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) ☉☉●

Range: B, C. Height: 10–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 20 ft. Flower: white, April–August. Fruit: white drupe, August–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained or a few days of poor drainage okay. Naturally forms a multi-trunked small tree, but can be pruned into a single trunk. May sucker in certain situations. Good for erosion control in shady areas with moist soils. Fruits eaten by at least 40 species of birds. Deer usually avoid Roughleaf Dogwood.

***Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum rufidulum*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 12–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 8–10 ft. Flower: white, March–May. Fruit: bluish-black drupes, July–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Very attractive small tree with glossy, dark green leaves that turn beautiful shades of red, purple, yellow, and orange in the fall. Flowers attract butterflies. The ripe fruits are enjoyed by several species of birds including robins, cedar waxwings, cardinals, bluebirds, and mockingbirds.

Texas Buckeye or White Buckeye (*Aesculus arguta*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: 10–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 8–12 ft. Flower: yellow to greenish-yellow, March–April. Fruit: capsule, May–June. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, limestone, granite; well drained. Texas Buckeye with its 7, 9, or 11 leaflets can easily be distinguished from Red Buckeye, which only has 5 leaflets on each palmately compound leaf. This tree adapts well to a variety of conditions, especially soil type. Flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Deer usually avoid Texas Buckeye.

***Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)** ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 6–12 ft. Landscape Spacing: 8–10 ft. Flower: purple, March–April. Fruit: pod, August–October (seeds are poisonous). Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Flowers attract butterflies. Provides evergreen cover and nesting sites for small birds. Fairly resistant to deer.

***Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*)** ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 10–20 ft. Landscape Spacing: 15–20 ft. Flower: pink, March. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Classic understory tree for a shade garden in South-Central Texas. Wonderful spring color, especially when mixed with Mexican Plum or Roughleaf Dogwood. **Mexican redbud** (*C. canadensis* var. *mexicana*. Range: C) has smaller leaves and grows on the Edward's Plateau and in the Trans-Pecos. The two varieties hybridize where their ranges meet. Excellent early nectar source for butterflies, moths, and bees. Seeds enjoyed by a variety of birds.

***Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)** ☉☉

Range: A, D. Height: 6–12 ft. Landscape Spacing: 8–14 ft. Flower: inconspicuous. Fruit: small pale blue berries on females, September–October. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay; poor drainage okay. Can be left natural to form a thick tall shrub or can be pruned into a small, multi-trunked tree. Excellent for use in moist areas with poor drainage. Berries enjoyed by over 40 species of birds including bobwhite quail, cedar waxwings, robins, cardinals, mockingbirds, warblers, towhees, and sparrows. Provides good cover and nesting sites for small

birds. Larval host plant for the Red-banded hairstreak butterfly. Wax Myrtle is fairly resistant to deer.

***Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, C, D. Height: 12–15 ft. Landscape Spacing: 12–15 ft. Fruit: red berries on female plants, fall and winter. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone, poor drainage okay. Adapts well to varied amounts of sun as well as differing soil types and levels of moisture. Provides beautiful evergreen foliage. Typically the dwarf varieties do not produce fruit. However, a new dwarf variety, "**First Lady**", which grows to 5 ft. does produce fruit. In some instances, chlorosis can be a problem with Yaupon Holly. The berries are eaten by several species of birds including bobwhite, doves, robins, cedar waxwings, bluebirds, jays and mockingbirds. Provides a good nesting site for small birds. Larval host plant for the Henry's elfin butterfly. Fairly resistant to deer.

Vines

***Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)** ☉☉●

Range: B, C. Height: to 70 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3 ft. Flower: red and yellow, April–June. Winter Growth: evergreen to deciduous as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; poor drainage okay. Crossvine is one of our best climbing vines for South-Central Texas. Although it prefers rich, moist soils, Crossvine will adapt to a wide variety of habitats. Protect it from intense afternoon sun and spread an adequate layer of mulch over the root zone when planting on thin, dry, rocky soils of the Hill Country. Flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are especially fond of this vine. The bloom period occurs during the spring migration of hummingbirds, thus providing them an important early nectar source. Deer usually avoid Crossvine.

Passionflower or Maypop (*Passiflora incarnata*) ☉☉

Range: A. Height: 6 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. Flower: lavender, May–August. Fruit: orange-yellow berry, June–October. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam; well drained. This vine has a very beautiful unique flower. Plant as a climbing vine or as a groundcover. It is a larval host plant for several species of butterflies including the Gulf fritillary and Julia. Birds enjoy the ripe fruits.

Pearl Milkweed Vine (*Matelea reticulata*) ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: high climbing. Landscape Spacing: 2-3 ft. Flower: green, April–July. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, limestone; well drained. This vine is naturally found in open woodlands, along fencerows, and in thickets, usually climbing on other plants. A pearl-like dot in the center of the star shaped flower earns it its name.

Pepper Vine (*Ampelopsis arborea*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: high climbing. Landscape Spacing: 3 ft. Fruit: bluish-purple berries, September–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, poor drainage okay. Very attractive vine that can be aggressive in a garden if not controlled. Berries offer a good fall food source for many species of small birds.

Purple Leatherflower (*Clematis pitcheri*) ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: high climbing. Landscape Spacing: 3 ft. Flower: purple, June–August. Fruit: achenes, September–October. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; moist, well drained. Very attractive vine with beautiful, vase-shaped flowers. The fruit is eaten by a few species of birds.

***Scarlet Clematis (*Clematis texensis*)** ☉☉●

Range: C. Height: 8–10 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: bright red, bell shaped, July–September. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; well drained. This vine prefers to climb over rocks or small shrubs and will do well on a small trellis. Endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas. Deer usually avoid Scarlet Clematis.

Snapdragon Vine (*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*) ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 3 ft. or more. Landscape Spacing: 2 ft. Flower: purple, March–September. Winter Growth: Evergreen, except dormant after a frost. Soil: sand, loam, caliche, limestone; well drained. This cascading vine serves as a nice accent plant grown in crevices of rocky areas or along a rock wall. Also grows nicely in a pot or hanging basket.

***Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus heptaphylla*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C. Height: high-climbing. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. for ground cover; 8 ft. for walls. Fruit: blue-black berries, September–November. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Use this vine on a tall arbor or on a house and you will be rewarded with beautiful green foliage in spring and summer that turns a bright red or mauve color in the fall. Virginia Creeper is endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas. *P. quinquefolia* may be more readily available in the local nurseries. Berries are enjoyed by a variety of birds including woodpeckers, kingbirds, great-crested flycatchers, titmice, cardinals, mockingbirds, bluebirds, warblers, and sparrows.

***White Limestone Honeysuckle (*Lonicera albiflora*)** ☉☉

Range: B, C. Height: 4–6 ft. Landscape Spacing: 4 ft. Flower: white, April. Fruit: red, October–November. Winter Growth: evergreen to deciduous as range extends from south to north. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. Prefers part shade with protection from the afternoon sun. Flowers attract butterflies. Fruits eaten by several species of migrating birds.

Woolly Pipevine or Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia tomentosa*) ☉☉

Range: A. Height: to 50 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3 ft. Flower: dark purple and greenish-yellow, March–May. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam; well drained. This plant offers beautiful heart shaped leaves and unusual pipe-shaped flowers. Provide extra support and plant next a trellis or fence.

Pipevine (*A. serpentina*), a close relative, works best as a ground cover. Both species are larval host plants for the Pipevine swallowtail butterfly.

Yellow Passionvine (*Passiflora lutea*) ☉☉●

Range: C. Height: 2–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 2–3 ft. Flower: whitish-yellow, May–September. Fruit: purple-black berry, August–November. Winter Growth: deciduous. Soil: sand, loam, limestone; moist, well drained. This delicate vine can be planted in moist areas of your shade garden. *P. affinis* is a very similar species that is most commonly found in the eastern portion of the Edwards Plateau. *P. affinis* can tolerate moist and dry soil conditions. Flowers attract butterflies and other insects. Berries devoured by several species of birds. Larval host plant for several species of butterflies including the Gulf fritillary and Julia.

Grasses and Grass-like Plants

Cedar Sedge (*Carex planostachys*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 6 in. Landscape Spacing: 6 in. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. Good for use as a small accent among rocks or boulders. **Texas sedge** (*C. texensis*. Range: A, B, C.) is a spreading form that will cover a larger area. These sedges are not true grasses.

Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 3–5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1 ft. Fruit: soft, curving seed head, May–September. Winter–Summer Growth: green in winter, goes dormant and turns a tan color in summer. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained. This cool season grass can be planted in drifts for a pleasing, soft shape in a shade garden. Provides an excellent early spring food source for seed eating birds. Vegetative parts used for nest building. Larval host plant for the Zabulon skipper butterfly.

*** Eastern Gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) ☉☉**

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 3–8 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3–4 ft. Fruit: yellow seed heads, April–November. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, a few days of poor drainage okay. Eastern Gamagrass forms a dramatic accent in a shady garden or meadow. Seed heads enjoyed by birds. Vegetative parts used for nesting material. Larval host plant for the Bunchgrass skipper butterfly.

Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 3–5 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3–5 ft. Fruit: bright gold seed head, October. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone; a few days of poor drainage okay. A wonderful accent grass for the garden. Indiangrass does especially well in deep, rich soils with a little extra moisture. Several species of birds enjoy the seeds. Vegetative parts used for nest building. Larval host plant for the Pepper-and-salt skipper butterfly.

***Inland Seoats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)** ☉☉●

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 2–4 ft. Landscape Spacing: 1.5–2 ft. Fruit: ivory to brown seeds, June–October. Fruit: dies back to the ground in winter. Soil: sand, loam, clay; moist, poor drainage okay. This is one of the only native grasses for deep shade. Makes a wonderful lush-green cover in very shady areas with poor drainage. Inland Seoats is a must for creating a natural woodland wildscape in your backyard, especially when massed around a pond alongside other natives like Wax Myrtle, Spider Lily, or Cardinal Flower. Grows well in a patio pot. Several species of birds eat the seeds, and the foliage is used for nesting material. Larval host plant for several species of butterflies.

Melicgrass (*Melica nitens*) ☉☉

Range: A, B, C. Height: 2–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 18 in. Fruit: white seed heads, spring. Winter Growth: green in winter, goes dormant and turns brown in summer. Soil: loam; well drained. Like Canada Wild Rye, this is another of our native cool season grasses. Plant the two in large drifts near one another for an appealing mixture of the soft, horizontal shape of the Canada Wild Rye and the sharper, vertical shape of the Melicgrass. The light color of the white seed heads helps to brighten shady areas of the garden.

***Nolina, Sacahuista or Bunch-Grass (*Nolina texana*)** ☉☉

Range: C, D. Height: 1.5–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3–4 ft. Flower: white, May–June. Winter Growth: evergreen. Soil: sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone; well drained. This plant is oftentimes mistakenly referred to as **Bear-grass**, a common name for a species of the Trans-Pecos, *N. erumpens*. Nolina, with its graceful flowing growth habit, makes a wonderful accent plant for a shady woodland or a sloped area. **Devil's Shoestring** (*N. lindheimeriana*. Range: C) is endemic to the Edwards Plateau of Texas. Both species offer cover for small birds. Nolina is a larval host plant for Sandia and Atea hairstreak butterflies and deer usually avoid it. Note that it is toxic to livestock. Nolina is not a true grass.

***Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)** ☉☉

Range: A, B, C, D. Height: 2–3 ft. Landscape Spacing: 3 ft. Fruit: seed, June–November. Winter Growth: dies back to the ground. Soil: sand, loam, clay, limestone, igneous; well drained. Use this grass as a part shade garden accent or

in a shady wildflower meadow. Seeds are devoured by birds in spring, summer, and fall. Vegetative parts used in nest building. Larval host plant for the Dotted skipper and Green skipper butterflies. This is the state grass of Texas.

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