

NATIVE AND ADAPTED PLANTS FOR TEXAS



Why Native and Adapted Plants?

Native and adapted plants are great choices for

- ▶ Aesthetically pleasing landscapes - both manicured looks and natural looks
- ▶ Water efficient landscapes
- ▶ Use of various structures, textures, and colors
- ▶ Saving homeowners both time and money

Benefits of Native and Adapted Plants

- ▶ Environmentally sustainable
- ▶ Labor efficient
- ▶ Drought tolerant
- ▶ Heat tolerant
- ▶ Water efficient
- ▶ Typically low fertilizer requirements
- ▶ Typically low pesticide requirements

Definitions

- ▶ **Native** plants are hardy. They have evolved in the harsh and unpredictable Texas climate. They thrive on Texas soils and the nutrients naturally in the soils. They are more resistant to pest problems caused by native insects and diseases.
- ▶ **Adapted** plants are hardy, but they have been introduced to Texas landscapes by the horticulture industry. They are usually from areas with similar soil types and climates.

NOTE: A plant may be native to Texas, but it may not be adapted to all areas of the state.

Planting With Native and Adapted Plants

- ▶ Start with soil preparation and amendments. Get a soil test to ensure the soil is properly prepared.
- ▶ Plant the right plant in the right place. Consider proper spacing for mature plants, sun or shade, and hardiness zone.
- ▶ Apply mulch around plants. The recommendation is 2” to 4” of mulch, and taper it off near the plant base to avoid fungal and pest problems.

(Mulch is good for increased water absorption, reduced water evaporation, reduced erosion, weed control, soil temperature moderation, and increased soil nutrition as the mulch breaks down)

Maintenance of Native and Adapted Landscapes

- ▶ Proper maintenance is the key to a beautiful and healthy water efficient landscape.
- ▶ Design the landscape so it does not exceed the landowner's maintenance capabilities.
- ▶ Utilize the rule of thirds - 1/3 drought tolerant turfgrass, 1/3 native and adapted planting beds, and 1/3 pervious hardscape. This provides visual appeal, usable space, and reduced water requirements.

Top 100 Native and Adapted Plants for Hardiness Zone 8a

► Shade Trees

Shantung Maple

Eldarica Pine

Red Oak

Bur Oak

Chinquapin Oak

Live Oak

Cedar Elm

Lacebark Elm

Top 100 Continued

► Ornamental Trees

Red Buckeye

Redbud - Many Varieties

Desert Willow

Smoketree

Possumhaw Holly

Yaupon Holly

Wichita Blue Juniper

Deciduous Magnolia

Wax Myrtle

Cherry Laurel

Eve's Necklace

Texas Mountain Laurel

Vitex

Top 100 Continued

► Turfgrass

Bermuda

St Augustine

Zoysia

Buffalo

Top 100 Continued

► Palms

Dwarf Palmetto

Windmill Palm

► Yuccas

Soft Leaf Yuccas

Red Yucca

Color Guard Yucca

More Top 100

► Perennials

Flame Acanthus

Texas Gold Columbine

Damianita

Coreopsis

Cone Flower

Mist Flower

Guara

Texas Star Hibiscus

Anne Marie Lantana

Texas Lantana

New Gold Lantana

Turk's Cap

Blackfoot Daisy

Rock Rose

Jerusalem Sage

Garden Phlox

More Top 100

- ▶ Rudbeckia
 - ▶ Henry Duelberg Mealycup Sage
 - ▶ Black and Blue Salvia
 - ▶ Mexican Bush Sage
 - ▶ Lyre Leaf Sage
 - ▶ Hot Lips Salvia
- Skullcap
 - Lamb's Ear
 - Fall Aster
 - Society Garlic
 - Zexmenia

More Top 100

► Groundcovers

Horse Herb

Snake Herb

Purple Wintercreeper

Frog Fruit

Gray Santolina

More Top 100

► Ferns

Wavy Cloak Fern

Holly Fern

Southern Wood Fern

► Vines

Cross Vine

Coral Honeysuckle

Chinese Wisteria

And More

► Ornamental Grasses

Berkeley Sedge

Inland Sea Oats

Maiden Grass

Zebra Grass

Gulf Muhly

White Cloud Muhly

Mexican Feather Grass

Dwarf Hameln Grass

Moudry Grass

Little Bluestem

Indiangrass

And More Top 100

► Shrubs

Glossy Abelia	St John's Wort
Kaleidoscope Abelia	Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Rose Creek Abelia	Andorra Juniper
Butterfly Bush	Texas Sage
Beauty Berry	Dwarf Wax Myrtle
False Aralia	Rosemary
Althea Rose of Sharon	Autumn Sage

And More Top 100

- ▶ Oakleaf Hydrangea
- ▶ Anthony Waterer Spirea
- ▶ Bridal Wreath Spirea
- ▶ Limeound Spirea
- ▶ Bush Germander
- ▶ Eastern Snowball Viburnum
- ▶ Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum

Are There More???

Where are the Native and Adapted Annual Plants?



Where Can You Find Native and Adapted Plants?

- ▶ Purchase plants listed in the Native and Adapted Plant database.
- ▶ Ask experts.
- ▶ Look at plants that grow wild in fields, around old abandoned houses, old cemeteries, etc.

References

- ▶ Best Plants & Trees to Grow in Texas Landscapes - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- ▶ Native Plant Society of Texas
- ▶ Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- ▶ Texas Smartscape