

Native Landscape Certification Program Level 1, NTX Plant List

Common Name Scientific Name	Native Region ¹ Habitat	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Light ²	Evergreen/Perennial ³	Seasonal Interest	Color/Feature	Water ⁴	Soil Type	Maintenance	Wildlife ⁵	Comments
Shade Trees, >20 ft												
Elm, Cedar <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	BEFW Uplands or lowlands	50-70'	50-60'	S-PS	D	Fall	Gold leaves	VL	Alkaline, adaptable	Prune for shape or to raise canopy	Y	Upright form. Adapted to rocky soils; can withstand heavy, poorly drained clay soils & moderately compacted soils.
Oak, Bur <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	BEFW Stream bottom, upland woods	70-100'	30-50'	S-PS	D	Spring	Large acorns	VL	Limestone, clay, adaptable	Prune for shape or to raise canopy	Y	Large, majestic, very adaptable. Needs lots of space & deep soil. In the white oak group.
Oak, Chinkapin <i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i>	BEFW Upland creek bottoms, ravines	45-110'	50-70'	S-PS	D	Fall	Yellow and rust leaves	L	Rock, sand, mildly alkaline	Prune for shape or to raise canopy	Y	Stately form; good for deeper soils. Leaves are sharply toothed but with no bristles. In the white oak group.
1. Oak, Escarpment Live 2. Oak, Live 1. <i>Quercus fusiformis</i> 2. <i>Quercus virginiana</i>	1. BEFW Limestone outcrops, well-drained soils 2. T Gulf and Atlantic coasts up to Virginia	1. 20-40' 2. 30-50'	1. 30-40' 2. 60-100'	S-PS	E	Winter	Green leaves	1. VL 2. L	Sand, loam, limestone, clay, calcareous well-drained	Prune only during hottest and coldest months; paint any pruning wounds to prevent oak wilt	Y	Oak wilt susceptible; likes large open spaces; briefly drops leaves in spring. Use <i>Q. fusiformis</i> if possible: more drought & cold tolerant spp. than <i>Q. virginiana</i> . <i>Q. virginiana</i> : leaf blades are broader in the middle and taper to the base; mature acorns not much longer than broad. <i>Q. fusiformis</i> : leaf blades more narrow overall than <i>Q. virginiana</i> , acorns much longer than broad.

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1. Oak, Shumard Oak, Shumard Red 2. Oak, Texas Red 1. <i>Quercus shumardii</i> 2. <i>Quercus buckleyi</i>	1. BE Moist forests, stream bottoms 2. EFW Limestone outcrops and slopes	1. 30- 120'	1. to 60'	S-PS	D	Fall	Red leaves	1. M	1. Deep soils 2. Loam, clay, limestone, well- drained	Prune during the hottest and coldest months; paint pruning wounds to help prevent oak wilt	Y	Can hybridize. 1. Shumard oak: acorn cups enclose <1/3 of acorn. Conspicuous tomentum on lower leaf vein axils. 2. TX Red Oak: Acorn cups enclose 1/3-1/2 of acorn, grows further west. Very minute tomentum on lower leaf vein axils. Smaller, shorter lived. More likely to be multi- trunked.
Pecan <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	BEFW Stream bottoms or slopes or cultivation	100- 160'	60-75'	S	D	Fall	Nuts	L	Sand, loam, clay, caliche; well drained	Prune for shape or to raise canopy	Y	Tall impressive tree; nut producing; for good, deep soils only; susceptible to disease and insects; recommended varieties are at texaspecans.org.
Ornamental Trees, 10-20 feet												
Desert Willow <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	T Dry streambeds in West TX	20-30'	15-25'	S-PS	D	Spring- fall	White, pink or purple flowers	L	Well- drained	Prune for shape or to raise canopy; remove suckers	Y	Trumpet-shaped, 3" long flower; need well-drained site; airy foliage casts a light shade for underplantings; attracts hummingbirds.
Eve's Necklace <i>Styphnolobium affine</i> <i>Sophora affinis</i>	BEFW Fields or woodlands	10-30'	10-20'	PS	D	Spring	Light pink flowers	VL	Sand, loam, clay, limestone; well drained	Prune for shape or to raise canopy	Y	Fragrant 4-6" drooping flower clusters; good nectar plant. Decorative seed pods look like beads on a necklace; seeds are poisonous.
Holly, Yaupon <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	T Sandy pinewoods, low woods in East TX	12-25'	8-12'	S-PS-SH	E	Winter	Red berries	L	Adaptable	Prune for shape only, pick prune to regain natural shape	Y	Small shade tolerant tree, females produce red berries in winter that attract birds; free of insects and diseases; poisonous berries.

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Plum, Mexican <i>Prunus mexicana</i>	BEFW River bottoms, prairies, and woodlands	15-35'	15-20'	S-PS	D Spring	White-pink flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well- drained	Prune for shape only or to raise canopy	Y Fragrantly sweet white flowers, edible fruit. Needs good drainage & fair amount of soil. Good in full sun or as understory tree.
1. Redbud, Eastern 2. Redbud, Texas 1. <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>canadensis</i> 2. <i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i>	1. BEFW Stream bottoms, lower slopes 2. BEFW Rocky, limestone slopes	1. 15-25' 2. 15-20'	1. 15-20' 2. 15-20'	1. PS 2.S-PS	D Spring	Pinkish purple flowers	1. M 2. L	Adaptable. 1. Sandy, silty 2. Well- drained, limestone	Prune for shape or to raise canopy; remove suckers	Y 1. Eastern Redbud: Thinner leaves, usually single-trunked. If you are buying one, try to make sure it is a local seed source. 2. Texas Redbud: Mostly multi- trunked with thick leathery leaves. Likes sunny, well drained sites.
Rusty Blackhaw <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	BEFW Rocky or sandy woods	10-20'	10-15'	S-PS-SH	D Late Spring and Fall	Cream flowers; red leaves	L	Sand, loam clay, limestone, well- drained	Prune for shape or to raise canopy right after bloom	Y Good understory tree. For deeper, well- drained soils; slow-growing; yellow, orange & red fall color; fall fruit favored by birds.
Shrubs, Multibranched, woody stems up to 10', persist through winter										
American Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	BE Woods, especially low ground	3-6'	6'	PS-SH	D Fall	Purple fruit/ yellow leaves	M	Sand, loam, clay, acid or calcareous	Do not prune	Y Attractive berries in fall and winter. Prefers dependable moisture; good understory shrub. Provides food for wildlife.
Autumn Sage Cherry Sage <i>Salvia greggii</i>	T Rocky soils of West TX	2-3'	2-3'	S	E Spring- fall	White, red, pink or coral flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well- drained	If leggy, cut back by 1/3 to 1/2	Y 1" long blooms; hummingbirds love them! If you keep snipping off the tips, it will bloom constantly spring- frost. Many varieties available.

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Coralberry <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	BEFW Woods, thickets, along streams	2-4'	1-3'	PS-SH	D Fall-Winter	Magenta berries	VL	Sand, loam, clay, well-drained	Cut back in winter if gets leggy; control runners	Y Can be used as a tall ground cover or compact shrub. Spreads by runners; susceptible to powdery mildew; does well in moist soil with compost.
Dwarf Yaupon Holly <i>Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'</i>	X Sandy low woods E TX	2-4'	2-4'	S-PS-SH	E Fall	Red berries	L	Sand, limestone, loam, clay, gravel	Pruning not necessary	Y Low, mounding shrub, maintains a formal shape.
Flame Acanthus <i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii</i>	T Rocky banks, floodplains in Edwards Plateau	3-5'	3-4'	S-PS	D Summer-Fall	Red or orange flowers	VL	Well-drained	Cut back in half after first frost or before spring growth	Y Can be used as a perennial hedge. Reseeds aggressively. Attracts hummingbirds & butterflies.
Texas Lantana <i>Lantana urticoides</i> <i>Lantana horrida</i>	T Open areas, thickets, S Edwards Plateau and S	3-5'	4-5'	S	D Summer-Fall	Orange and yellow flowers	VL	Well-drained	Prune in winter to keep from sprawling.	Y Flowers begin yellow and turn orange. Gets thorny with age. Flowers attract butterflies; fruit attracts birds.
Yucca, Red <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	T Rocky slopes, open areas in SW Lampasas Cut Plain	2-4'	4-6'	S-PS	E Spring-Summer	Coral or yellow flowers	VL	Sand, loam, clay, limestone; well-drained	Remove old bloom stalk at the base	Y Drought hardy yet does well with typical landscape watering. Variety with yellow flowers is less common than coral flowers. Not a true yucca; no spines or sharp edges. May colonize; deer will eat blooms but not leaves; attracts hummingbirds.

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Flowering Plants, herbaceous annuals, biennials, and perennials												
Black-Eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	BEFW	1-2'	1'	S-PS	A, P	May to Sept.	Yellow	L	Well drained sand, loam, clay.	Supplemental watering to encourage blooming.	Y	Long blooming with moderate watering, afternoon shade. True native easily grown from seed. Attracts birds & butterflies.
Blackfoot Daisy <i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>	W Well-drained limestone and calcareous soils	0.5-1'	1-2'	S-PS	E	Spring-Fall	White flowers with yellow centers	VL	Sand, caliche, limestone; well drained	Prune back if leggy. Does not thrive in rich soils or with regular water.	Y	Short daisy-like blooms all spring and summer. Reseeds. Requires dry conditions; excellent rock garden plant; will not tolerate poor drainage.
Butterfly Milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	BEFW Sandy open woods or silty clay prairies	1-2'	1-2'	S-PS	D	Spring-Summer	Orange flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained.		Y	Attractive to nectaring butterflies; host plant for Monarch butterflies. Large taproot, be patient for plant to get to full size; will take 4 years from a small plant.
Fall Aster <i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i> <i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	BF Prairies	1-3'	2-3'	S-PS	P	Fall	Purple flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, calcareous	Prune by 1/2 on July 4 to keep compact form	Y	Fall flowers, great nectar source for migrating monarchs & other butterflies.
Four-nerve Daisy <i>Tetraneuris scaposa</i>	BEFW Gravelly or rocky prairies on limestone	1'	1'	S-PS	E	Spring-winter	Yellow flowers	VL	Sand, loam, clay, limestone very well-drained	Prune off spent stalks	Y	One of the few plants that can provide flowers year round! Prefers well drained soils. Don't water too often. Works well in sunny rock gardens, container gardens.

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Indian Blanket Firewheel <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	BEFW	1-2'	2'	S, PS	A	April to Frost	Yellow, red, orange.	L	Well drained sand, loam, clay; acid or calcareous.	Deadheading, supplemental summer watering prolong blooming.	Y	Long blooming if watered moderately; reseeds easily. One of 3 locally native Gaillardia species. Cultivars & hybrids widely available; annual or short-lived perennial; may be sterile or not come true from seed. Early nectar for pollinators.
1. Mistflower, Blue 2. Mistflower, Gregg's 1. <i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i> 2. <i>Conoclinium greggii</i> <i>Eupatorium greggii</i>	1. BEFW Moist woods 2. T Gravelly, seasonally flooded soils Trans-Pecos	1-3'	2-4'	S-PS	P	Spring-fall	Purple flowers	M	Adaptable, poorly drained ok, rain garden plant	Control spread by pulling	Y	Can be used to cover large areas; attractive to butterflies, 1. Blue mistflower has opposite, dark green, rounded leaves. Harder to find in nurseries. 2. Gregg's mistflower has lime green palmate leaves & a sprawling form.
Sage, Cedar <i>Salvia roemeriana</i>	T Under dense cedar shade in Edwards Plateau, Trans-Pecos	1-2'	1-2'	PS-SH	D	Spring-Summer	Red flowers	VL	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Keep leaves cleared from areas you want the plant to naturalize in.	Y	Small & well-mannered, with little round leaves scalloped along the edges. Reseeds freely; red bloom spikes bring color to shady spots. Great for hummingbirds.
Sage, Mealy Blue <i>Salvia farinacea</i>	BEFW Calcareous soils	2-3'	2-3'	S	P	Spring to summer	Blue flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Remove spent blooms for more flowering; cut back to 6" in winter	Y	Flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Best on thin limestone soils in full sun. 'Henry Duelberg' is a popular variety, better adapted to the home landscape.

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Sundrops <i>Calylophus</i> <i>Calylophus berlandieri</i> subsp. <i>Berlandieri</i> <i>Calylophus</i> <i>drummondianus</i>	W Prairies	1-2'	1-2'	S-PS	E Spring-Summer	Yellow flowers	VL	Sand, loam, clay, caliche, limestone, well-drained	Prune brown leaves; prune old blooms	Y Great rock garden plant, bushy & low growing; 'Compact Gold' is a low-growing variety that can be a groundcover. <i>C. berlandieri</i> subsp. <i>pinifolius</i> is the more common wild subspecies, but has a single stem.
Texas Gold Columbine <i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> var. <i>hinckleyana</i>	T Rocky crevices in Trans-Pecos mountains	1-3'	1-3'	PS-SH	SE Spring	Yellow flowers	M	Sand, loam, limestone, moist, well-drained	Prune off spent foliage and seedheads in May	Y Prefers moist, well-drained soils; reseeds, dormant in summer without water. Attracts hummingbirds.
Turk's Cap <i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i> var. <i>drummondii</i>	T Woodlands in Rio Grande Plains, S Edwards Plateau	2-3'	3-5'	S-PS-SH	P Late spring-fall	Red flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, moist	Prune back to ground in winter	Y In NTX winters, may freeze to ground; very reliably returns from roots. Spreads aggressively, may also be used as tall flowering groundcover. Fruit & nectar for wildlife; attracts hummingbirds & large butterflies.
Zexmenia <i>Wedelia acapulcensis</i> var. <i>hispida</i> <i>Wedelia texana</i>	T Calcareous soils in Edwards Plateau, Trans-Pecos	1.5-2.5'	2-3'	S-PS	SE Spring to frost	Golden yellow flowers	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Prune to half-height in July. Cut to ground in winter.	Y One of the most dependable flowers for summer color, longevity, & easy maintenance. Nectar source. Larval host for several butterflies.
Grasses and Sedges										
Bluestem, Little <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	BEFW Prairies and woodland openings	2-5'	1-2'	S-PS	P Fall	Copper leaves	L	Sand, loam, clay, limestone; well-drained	Cutting back optional, do not add compost	Y Basic component of prairies. Lovely fall copper foliage form nice columnar clumps. Needs good drainage, little watering, & un-enriched soil.

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Buffalograss <i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	BEFW Grasslands	8-10"	Turf	S	P		Blue green	VL	Loam, clay, limestone, well-drained	Mow to a height of 2.5-3" or leave unmowed	Y	Cultivars are from sod only. Remove previous turf before installing, remove weeds as necessary, needs little water. Provides browse, cover & nesting material; attracts birds & butterflies.
Gulf Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	W Sandy forest openings, mainly SE and E TX	1.5-3'	1-3'	S-PS	P	Fall	Purple, pink seed heads	L-M	Sand, loam, clay; seasonal poorly drained ok	Cut back in February	Y	Functions well in meadow gardens and as a general garden plant; wispy seed heads make great fall color.
Inland Sea Oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> <i>Uniola latifolia</i>	BEFW Along streams and in moist woods	2-4'	2-3'	PS-SH	P	Summer-Fall	Ivory seeds	L-M	Sand, loam, clay, moist, poorly drained ok	Cut back to 6" in February	Y	Graceful, drooping wheat-like seed heads; spreads freely by seed, can be used as a tall groundcover for woodland; good understory plant; prefers moist areas. Easily transplanted.
Lindheimer Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	T Moist limestone, creek banks, Edwards Plateau	2-5'	3-4'	S	P	Fall	Fountain-like silvery plumes	L-M	Sand, loam, clay, calcareous well-drained	Rake or optionally cut back in February	Y	Clumping blue-green grass, smaller alternative to pampas grass, feather-like blooms in fall, leave foliage through winter for interest.
Mexican Feathergrass <i>Nasella tenuissima</i> <i>Stipa tenuissima</i>	T Open woods in Trans-Pecos Mountains	1-3'	1-2'	S-PS	SE	Spring-early summer	Cream seed heads	L	Loam, sand or clay, well-drained	Water during droughts to prevent dormancy. Optionally cut in February.		Soft, elegant weeping form; nice in masses. Requires good drainage and can't take excessive moisture. Should not be watered heavily more than once a week. May rot under heavy mulch.
Groundcovers												

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Frogfruit <i>Phyla nodiflora</i> <i>Lippia nodiflora</i>	BEFW Low, moist disturbed areas	3-6"	2'+	S-PS	SE Spring to fall	White flowers	L- M	Sand, loam clay, limestone, poorly drained ok	Cut back to 3" in February	Y Spreads rapidly; small flower provides nectar for skippers, larval host plant for butterflies.
Golden Groundsel <i>Packera obovata</i> <i>Senecio obovatus</i>	BEF Stream bottom woods	3-14"	1'+	PS-SH	E Spring	Yellow flowers	M	Loam, clay, limestone	Cut back stalks after flowering	Y Glossy round low-growing rosette leaves, spreads by runners & seed, flowers attract butterflies. Can be hard to find at nurseries.
Horseherb <i>Calyptocarpus vialis</i>	BEFW Woodlands, fields, lawns, disturbed soil	6-12"	2'+	PS-SH	SE Spring- fall	Tiny yellow flowers	VL	Sand, loam, clay; well drained	Mow occasionally if desired	Y Forms dense mats in the shade with little or no water. Can be mowed; can take moderate amounts of foot traffic. Great for dry shade.
Vines, Climb trees and fences with tendrils or twining										
Coral Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	BEFW Stream banks or hillside woods		6-12'	S-PS	SE Feb- June, Fall	Red to yellow flowers	M	Any, poor drainage ok	Prune to direct and control growth	Y Coral tubular blooms attract hummingbirds; berries attract birds. Much tamer than Japanese honeysuckle.
Crossvine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	T Moist woods SE and E TX		8-30'	S-PS-SH	E Mar- May	Red to yellow flowers	L	Any, poor drainage ok	Prune to direct and control growth	Y Tendrill vine attaches to wall; aggressive climber. Attracts hummingbirds.
Poison Ivy <i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	BEFW Low woods, forest margins, disturbed areas		0.5-50'	S-PS-SH	D Fall	Red leaves			Pull or spray all leaves with glyphosate to remove	Y Poisonous. All parts can cause a rash (dermatitis) in all seasons.
Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	BEFW Along creeks, wooded areas		3-40'	S-PS-SH	D Fall	Red or purple leaves	L	Any, poor drainage ok	Prune to direct and control growth	Y Vigorous cover; good groundcover as well. Best foliage color & berry production in full sun. Many birds compete for the berries.

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Invasive Plants* Non-native plants that invade preserves and outcompete native plants. Do NOT Plant.										
Heavenly Bamboo <i>Nandina domestica</i>	Asia Sandy woods	3-5'	3-5'	S-PS-SH	E Fall	Red berries and leaves			Cut and paint with herbicide or dig up by roots	Remove. Compact shrub; compound leaves that are reddish in fall; red berries.
Japanese Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Asia Disturbed areas, woods, thickets	33'	8-30'	S-PS-SH	SE April- July	White flowers			Pull vines. Cut and paint vines with herbicide	Remove. Twining vine with white sweet smelling flowers. Opposite leaves.
Johnsongrass <i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Mediterranean Region Fields, roadsides, disturbed areas	2-8'	2-8'	S	P Summer	Purple flowers, reddish seeds			Repeated mowing, spray with herbicide, pulling and removing	Remove. Identify with white stripe on leaf midrib & reddish seeds.
Privet <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	China, Europe Forests, fencerows, fields	20-30'	30'	S-PS-SH	SE April- June	White flowers			Cut and paint with 20% glyphosate herbicide or dig up by roots	Remove. Shades out & excludes native understory species, reducing tree recruitment. Spreads by birds eating fruit, & by rhizomes.
Wax Leaf Ligustrum Japanese Ligustrum <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Asia Lowland and upland forests, fencerows, fields	6-30'	15-25'	S-PS-SH	E August- Septemb er	White flowers		Clay, loam, sand	Cut and paint with 20% glyphosate herbicide, or dig up by roots	Remove. Flowers unpleasant scented. Shades out & excludes native understory species, reducing tree recruitment. Spreads by birds eating fruit, & by rhizomes.

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Key

Native Region¹

B: Blackland Prairie, E: Eastern Cross Timbers, F: Fort Worth Prairie, W: Western Cross Timbers, T: Texas, but not North Texas

X: Hybrid with native Texas parents

Light²

S: Sun (in full sunlight for 6 hours), PS: Part sun (in sunlight 2-6 hours or lightly shaded all day), SH: Shade (in the sun less than 2 hours per day)

Evergreen³

E: Evergreen, SE: Semi-Evergreen, D: Deciduous, P: Perennial, A: Annual, B: Biennial

Water⁴ Refers to the plant's water needs after establishment. All plants need more water the first 2 years.

VL: Very Low (Water occasionally during very dry conditions, L: Low (Water thoroughly every 3-4 weeks if no rainfall)

M: Medium (Water thoroughly every 2-3 weeks if no rainfall), H: High (Water thoroughly every 5-7 days if no rainfall)

Wildlife⁵

Y: Texas native plants provide greater wildlife value than hybrid, non-native and/or exotic plants.

Flowers, leaves, nuts, seeds, and berries provide food for wildlife including butterflies, insects, birds and/or mammals.

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<p>Developed by the Native Plant Society of Texas for the Native Landscape Certification Program - used with permission as a pdf only.</p> <p><i>*Texas Department of Agriculture required disclaimer: “This (NLCP Invasives) 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.”</i></p>										