

Gardening with Native Plants

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Why Use Native Plants?

- *Environmental repair*
- *Adapted to local soils & climate*
- *Attracts & sustains native animal life*
- *Lower maintenance*

Location

- *Landscape zone 8*
- *Mix of Blackland Prairie & Post Oak Savannah*
- *Rainfall 30-45"*
- *Site analysis*
- *Microclimates*

Grasses and grasslike plants

Purple muhly



A nice clumping grass, use as a backdrop or accent. Good for erosion control. Forage material for wildlife

Lindheimeria muhlenbergii



Full sun, partial shade, drought tolerant. Birds eat seeds, grass used for nesting and denning material

Cattail



Root and flower edible; fluff for stuffing, diaper material. Leaves and stems for weaving.

Horsetail, Scouring rush
Equisetum



Hollow tubes, contains silica, medicinal properties—UTI—grew well in sandy soil, can be invasive

Trees
Live Oak



Mant animals like the acorns and it's great cover for all kinds of birds



Eastern Red-cedar, Juniperus virginiana

Full sun-part shade, most soils, 20-50'. Female trees have bluish fruit, winter food for birds&possum,larval host for hairstreak butterflies



Magnolia

Grows to a large tree, birds and squirrels eat the seeds. Provides good cover



Excellent nesting and cover for birds. Cones eaten by woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, sparrows, goldfinch, siskins

Redbud



Early spring nectar source for bees and butterflies. Flowers and young seed pods are edible

*Farkleberry, *accineum arboreum**



Good understory tree, fall color (reddish) berries attractive to birds, fragrant flowers in spring

Gum Bumelia, Bumelia lanuginosa



Several bird species feed on the fruit. Small tree



Fringe Tree

Chionanthus virginicus

Good source of nectar while in flower in spring. Birds like the fruit-bluejays, mocking birds, cardinals, woodpeckers.

American Holly



Good cover and nesting tree. Red berries enjoyed by many birds and mammals

Senna



Deer proof, larval host to yellow sulphur, small understory tree.

Shrubs, Perennials



Cenizo, Texas Sage,

Aka barometer bush, very drought tolerant, deer resistant, larval host to Theona checkerspot.

Coral-berry



Many birds eat the fruit, provides good cover

Coralbean
Erythrina herbacea



Flowers attract the ruby-throat humming bird, seeds poisonous. Some use in fish kill or rat poison

Yarrow



American Beautyberry



Several species of birds eat berries, mockingbird. Also racoons, possums & foxes

Lantana



Attracts many butterflies. Larval host of painted lady. Cardinals eat ripe fruit

Prickly Pear Cactus



Flowers attractive to many insects, esp. bees, both nectar and pollen

Yaupon



Birds and mammals eat the fruit, good nesting tree or shrub. Very flammable, don't plant near house

Vines

Virginia Creeper,
Parthenocissus quinquefolia



Good as ground cover or climber. Many birds like the blueberries

Trumpet-creeper, Campsis radicans



Hummingbirds love it. Adaptable to any soil

Coral Honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens



Attracts hummingbirds, everblooming. Not invasive. Prefers morning sun and dappled shade in afternoon

Passion Vine, Passiflora incarnata



Larval food for gulf fritillary, zebra longwings and Julias. Intricate flower used by early monks to teach the passion of Christ

Snail Vine, Cocculus carolinus



Dense clusters of red fruit are attractive to bluebirds, sparrows, warblers etc. Fast growing, no thorns

Annuals

- *Gaillardia amblyodon*



Attracts bees, butterflies and other small insects. Painted buntings like the ripe seed heads. Flowers March-November, full sun-part shade. Easy to grow.

Gayfeather, Liatris



Abundant fall nectar for bees, butterflies and sm. insects

False Poinsettia

*Fire-on-the-mountain,
Mexican fireplant*



Rudbeckia



Black-eyed Susan

Provides summerlong nectar. In fall the seedheads are food for various seed-eating birds. Self-seeding, drought tolerant, full sun-part shade

Scarlet Sage, Salvia coccinea



Excellent hummingbird plant, full sun-dappled shade, any soil, pink and white also

Horsemint, Monarda citriodora



Very aromatic, blooms through summer. Attracts bees and butterflies, medicinal tea for fevers, sleep, sorethroat

Bluebell, Eustoma grandiflora



Especially attractive to bees and butterflies.

Milkweed



Larval host for monarch and queen, poisonous, over 40 varieties in Tx

Bluebonnets, Indian Paintbrush



Always a sign of spring, all varieties are state flower. When pollinated, the white part turns dk red

Columbine



Plant seeds in fall

Winecups



Nice in mixed wildflower planting. Extra water, longer bloom period

Bishops Weed



Herbertia



In the iris family, forms colonies.