

BIRD HABITAT PLANTS FOR BASTROP COUNTY

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<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>HEIGHT & HABIT</u>	<u>FLOWER</u>	<u>FRUIT</u>	<u>SOIL</u>	<u>SUN/SHADE AND FLAMMABILITY RATING</u>	<u>ORNAMENTAL AND WILDLIFE USE</u>
SMALL BUSHES						
Flame Acanthus <i>Anisacanthus insignia</i>	2'-4' deciduous	Small, orange-red, tubular flowers June – Sept.	Seed capsules	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun Low flammability	Very drought tolerant bush with bright little flowers all summer. Hummingbirds love the flowers. Butterflies do too.
Agarita <i>Berberis trifoliata</i>	3'-8' Evergreen	Showy yellow flowers Feb. – Mar.	Red berries May - July	Dry sand, loam And clay	Full sun High flammability	Makes good hedge – blue green leaves, drought tolerant. Blooms very early. Birds love the ripe fruit. Spiny leaves make protected nest sites.
Coral-berry <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculata</i>	1½' - 4' Deciduous	Small white flowers June – Aug.	Magenta berries Oct. - April	Sand, loam, clay	Dappled to part shade Low flammability	Very pretty spreading tall ground cover. Berries last all winter. Fruit eaten by many local birds.
Turk's cap <i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i>	2'-4' Deciduous	Very showy red flowers May-June	Red seeds Oct.-Dec.	Sand, loam and clay	Part shade to shade Low flammability	Makes a good garden plant or tall ground cover in natural areas. Very xeric. Bright red flowers are plentiful all summer. Hummingbirds nectar the flowers and birds eat the fruit.
Coral-bean <i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	3-6 deciduous	Very showy red flowers May - June	Red seeds Oct. Dec.	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun Low flammability	A most Xeric plant. Beautiful bright red flowers and colorful red bean in brown pods. Ruby-throated Hummingbird uses flowers for nectar.
Autumn Sage <i>Salvia greggii</i>	2'-4' semi-evergreen	Showy pink or red flowers April – Dec.	Nutlets June to Dec.	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun is best Low flammability	Widely used garden plant. Hummingbirds love this plant
Chili pequin <i>Capsicum annuum</i>	1' – 2½' Deciduous	Small white flowers Mar – Nov.	Small red chili peppers. H O T	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Pleasant understory shrub. Peppers are used in cooking. Watch out!! Birds of several species loved peppers and disperse seeds.

Fragrant sumac <i>Rhus aromatica</i>	1' – 3' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Red berries May - June	Sand, loam, clay Low flammability	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Looks like poison ivy. Forms thickets. Understory bush in natural areas. Red berries are earliest summer fruit and popular with several bird species.
White mistflower <i>Eupatorium wrightii</i>	2'-6' semi- evergreen	Very fragrant cream-white flowers. Aug- Nov	Seeds	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Hummingbirds swarm on the extremely fragrant, fuzzy flowers in fall just when they need the nutrients for migration. Butterflies flock to this shrub.
Pigeonberry <i>Rivinia humilis</i>	1'-1½' Evergreen to dormant in winter	Pink and white 2" spikes almost all the time	Red berries, Spring to fall.	Sand, loam, clay	Dappled shade to part shade Low flammability	This is a charming ground cover. Plant has flowers and berries at the same time almost continuously. Birds love berries.
Pokeberry <i>Phytolacca americana</i>	3'-5' Perennial	6 inch flower spikes, April – May.	Purplish- black berries throughout summer till frost	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Not a very good landscape plant but a wonderful bird and wildlife food plant. Birds disperse seed and will likely plant some in your landscape.
Cigar Flower <i>Cuphea ignea</i>	3' Perennial	Small, long and narrow, tubular flowers, spring to fall.	Seeds.	Well-drained soil.	Full sun. Low flammability	Nice non-native garden plant. Dies back in winter. Blooms all summer. Related to Mexican heather. Hummingbirds use flowers extensively.
Oklahoma Plum <i>Prunus gracilis</i>	1½' – 3' Deciduous	White flowers April - May	Plums, bluish purple	Sand, well- drained	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Shrubs look very pretty in spring covered with white blossoms. Plant in natural area with space to spread. Birds eat the wild plums.
LARGE BUSHES						
Barbados Cherry <i>Malpighia glabra</i>	5'-9' Evergreen	White to pink flowers March to Dec.	Drupes, red and fleshy	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Highly ornamental shrub, erect with many slender stems at base. Several species of birds eat the fruit.
Smooth sumac <i>Rhus glabra</i>	3' – 10' Deciduous	Small clusters of white flowers June to August	Velvety red berries in clusters. Sept. – Oct.	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Gorgeous red fall color. Fruit is eaten by 35 species of birds. Butterflies nectar at flowers.

American Beauty-berry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	3'-9' Deciduous	Small clusters of pinky white flowers at nodes. May - July	Magenta berries in clusters at nodes on stems. Aug. – Nov.	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Beautiful soft-looking but rugged shrub for wood edges where it can be seen and enjoyed. <u>Many</u> species of birds as well as mammals eat the berries.
Lantana <i>Lantana horrida</i>	3'-6' Deciduous	Orange and yellow 1-2" flower heads Spring to frost	Black berries Sept – Nov.	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun Medium flammability	Colorful, long-lasting flowers. Good plant for large garden. Hummingbird attractor. Many birds eat the berries.
Wax Myrtle <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	6'-12' Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Bluish-gray round, waxy berries. Winter	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade High flammability	Excellent garden shrub. Medium green, small shiny leaves. Can be trained to multi-trunked small tree. Dense leaves provide cover and nest sites. Forty species of birds eat the berries.
Pyracantha <i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	6'-12' Evergreen	White flowers in 2" clusters in spring.	¼" apple-like berries orange in fall, red in winter.	Sand, loam , clay that is slightly acid	Full sun High flammability	Introduced species from Asia. Good screen and security plant for landscape. Many bird species eat the berries. Also provides good, protected nesting sites because of the many and sharp thorns.
Russian Olive or Elaeagnus <i>Elaeagnus pugnens</i>	5'-15' Evergreen	Inconspicuous. Fall.	Flecked silver fruit in late winter and early spring.	Sand, loam, clay, well-drained.	Full sun to part shade Medium flammability	Non-native good screen plant for full sun where it will be very dense. Very drought tolerant. Good nest site shrub and birds eat fruit.
Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	3' tall and spreads out. semi-Evergreen	Pale pink flowers in spring.	Small, orangy-red fruit. Late summer through winter.	Sand, loan, clay	Full sun Medium flammability	Low growing shrub that can be used as groundcover on rocky slopes. Provides cover and food for birds. A very good colorful evergreen plant. Non-native.

GRASSES					Not rated for flammability	
Big muhly <i>Mullenbergia lindheimeri</i>	2'-5' warm season perennial	Spikelets, silver to tan August	Seeds Sept.-Nov.	Loam, clays, prefers limestone	Full sun	Attractive bunch grass. Striking accent in garden Birds eat ripe seeds. Good nesting material.
Bushy Bluestem <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	3'-4' warm season perennial	Spikelets, tan to gold	seeds	Moist sand	Full sun to part shade	Natural area grass. Pretty in fall. Food and cover for many species of birds.
Inland Sea oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	2'-4' warm season perennial	Spikelets, green to tan	Seeds June-Oct.	Sand, loam and clay	Part shade	Spikelets droop attractively. Natural area grass in woodlands near streams. Very good forage for birds and mammals also.
Little bluestem <i>Schozachyrium scoparium</i>	2'-5' warm season perennial	Spikelets, bluish gray	Seeds Sept.-Dec.	Sand, loam and clay	Sun to part shade	The <u>most</u> attractive native grass in the area. Natural area accent. Good cover grass and nest material for birds.
VINES					Not rated for flammability	
Southern dewberry <i>Rubus trivialis</i>	Vine-like climber	White Feb.-April	Dewberries May-June	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	Not useful as ornamental but innumerable birds and mammals relish the berries. Provides good cover as well.
Cross-vine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Climber up to 50' Evergreen	Showy red and yellow tubular flowers. March-April	Capsule Sept.-Oct.	Moist sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	The best native flowering vine. Good garden plant. Covered with flowers during peak bloom time. Ruby throated hummingbird needs this early blooming nectar plant to survive migration.
Trumpet creeper <i>Campsis radicans</i>	Climber Semi-evergreen	Orange tubular flowers in clusters June-Sept.	Capsule with winged seeds	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	Natural area vine. Premier Hummingbird plant.
Mustang grape <i>Vitis mustangensis</i>	Climber up to 40' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Grapes Late summer	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	Not a good landscape plant, but grapes are eaten by many birds.
Muscadine grape <i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	Climber up to 40' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Blue black berries Late summer	Sand, loam, clay	Full sun to part shade	Grapes eaten by several species of songbirds.

Carolina Jessamine <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Vine to 40' Evergreen	Bright yellow, funnel-shaped flowers Late winter and spring		Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade	This beautiful vine needs shaping and trimming in a garden setting to stay in bounds. It has fragrant, yellow flowers early and is a favorite with hummingbirds.
Pepper vine <i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	Climber Semi-evergreen	Inconspicuous	Berries, purple Late summer	Sand, loam, clay, moist	Part shade to shade	Natural area vine. Berries are great source of food for game and non-game birds.
SMALL TREES						
Texas Persimmon <i>Diospyros texana</i>	10'-30' Deciduous	Small greenish-white fragrant flowers in March	Small, black and fleshy fruit. June-July	Well-drained & gravelly.	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Very attractive dark gray trunks and branches. Nice accent or specimen plant for garden. Ripe fruit eaten by game and song birds.
Farkleberry <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>	8'-25' semi-evergreen	Small, bell-shaped white flowers May-June	Small blue berries Fall and Winter	Sand and sandy loam	Part shade High flammability	Attractive shrubby small tree with dark green leaves. Good fall color. Small berries are eaten by several species of resident and wintering birds.
Deciduous holly <i>Ilex decidua</i>	10'-30' Deciduous	Inconspicuous Spring	Red drupes along stems and branches	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to shade High flammability	Very ornamental small tree. Light gray branches are lined with red berries all winter. Berries eaten by several bird species.
Yaupon holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	15'-25' Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Red drupes on female tree only	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to shade High flammability	Makes good accent or specimen plant in garden. Berries are very pretty against green leaves. Fruit eaten in spring by several species of birds. Very good nest tree because of dense leaves.
Carolina Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	12'-20' Deciduous	Inconspicuous small flowers. May-June	Drupes, reddish brown Fall	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to shade Low flammability	Pretty dark green, shiny leaves and red berries that remain on tree for a long time. Fruit eaten by a number of bird species.
Hercules Club Ash <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	10'-30' Deciduous	Showy green-yellow flower clusters. March-April	Capsule Fall	Sand and loam, acid to neutral	Full sun to part shade High flammability	Thorny trunks and branches. Mostly a fence row tree. Not a good home landscape plant. Birds eat seeds. Larvae of <u>many</u> butterflies, including Giant Swallowtail, eat leaves.
Desert Willow <i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	6'-15' Deciduous	Showy, orchid-like flowers. May-Sept.	Capsule with winged seeds. Aug.-Nov.	Sand, loam, and clay, well-drained.	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Stunning flowering tree. One of the best for this area. Hummingbirds love the nectar. Tanagers feed on the flowers. Various species feed on winged seed.

Rough-leaved Dogwood <i>Cornus drummondii</i>	10'-20' Deciduous	Showy, white flower head. May-Aug.	Round, white drupes	Sand, Loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Very pretty white flowering tree. Good natural garden plant and woodland understory tree. Forty species of birds feed on white fruit.
American Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	5'-20' Deciduous	Showy white 4"-8" flower clusters June-Sept.	Berries, blue-black. Sept.-Nov.	Wetish sand and loams and gravelly clays	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Invasive in gardens. Use only in natural areas along streams or creeks. Pretty flowers. Fruit eaten by many species of birds.
Rusty blackhaw viburnum <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	10'-30' Deciduous	Showy, cream-white flowers. March	Bluish-black berries. Sept.-Oct.	Sand, loam, and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Pretty, single-trunked small tree, Very glossy leaves. Looses leaves in August because of dry weather. Robins and other songbirds love fruit.
Red buckeye <i>Aesculus pavia</i>	10'-30' Deciduous Early spring	Showy, red, tubular flower clusters March-May	Capsules Late summer and Fall	Sand, loam and clay . Not too dry.	Part shade to shade Low flammability	Good understory tree in natural area. Looses leaves in summer. Scarlet flowers are visited by Hummingbirds. Seeds are poisonous and not eaten by wildlife.
Eastern redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	10'-40' Deciduous	Showy magenta pea-like flowers. March	Legumes, reddish-brown. Late summer and fall	Sand, loam, and heavy black clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Highly ornamental small tree. Early nectar source for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Seeds are eaten by a number of species.
Retama <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	10'-25' Deciduous	Showy yellow flowers all summer.	Legumes in late summer and fall.	Sand, loam, and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Thorny green-barked shrubby tree. Flowers are fragrant and bloom almost year 'round. Seeds are eaten by game and songbirds. Provides good cover and nest sites.
Cherry laurel <i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	10'-30' Evergreen	Showy, cream-white spike-like flowers. March-April	Blue-black berries Aug. Sept.	Sand, loam and clay loam	Full sun to part shade High flammability	Attractive shiny, dark green leaves. Does better as a specimen plant in a garden. Birds love the black berries, especially cedar waxwings.
Mexican plum <i>Prunus mexicana</i>	15'-35' Deciduous	Showy, fragrant, white flowers	Plums Sept.-Oct.	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Beautiful spring flowering tree. Fragrant blossoms. Somewhat messy. Plums are relished by birds and small mammals, such as rat terriers.
Woolly-bucket bumelia <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	15'-35' Deciduous	White flowers June-July	Blue-black berries Sept.-Oct.	Sandy loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Smallish tree in Bastrop County. Thorny. Good cover and nest tree. Several birds feed on fruit.

Flame-leaf sumac <i>Rhus copollina</i>	10'-20' Deciduous	Small greenish white. Spring	Small red drupes in clusters. Fall	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Natural area or wood edge plant. Thickets prolifically. Beautiful bright red fall color. Fruit is eaten by at least 21 species of birds.
Western Soapberry <i>Sapindus drummondii</i>	15'-50' Deciduous	Clusters of small white flowers. April-May	Round, amber, berry-like fruit with one seed. Sept.-Oct.	Sand, loam and clay Fencerows and streams	Full sun, part shade Low flammability	Yellow fall color. Tolerates poor sites. Fruit prized by many kinds of birds. Good nest and cover tree.
LARGE TREES						
Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	45'-100' deciduous conifer	Inconspicuous	Small cones Winter	Sand, loam and clay	Full to part sun Low flammability	Large conifer with needle-like leaves. Lovely, soft, conical shape. Often planted in groups. Seeds eaten by many birds. Good cover and nest sites.
Eastern red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	30'-60' Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Small, bluish and berry-like Fall and Winter	Well-drained sand or clay	Full to part sun High flammability	Good screen tree. <u>Many</u> birds eat the seeds, find shelter and build nests in the dense growth of old cedar trees.
Loblolly pine <i>Pinus taeda</i>	60'-100' Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Cones, 6"-8" long Fall and Winter	Sandy to gravelly	Full to part sun High flammability	Beautiful landscape tree. Excellent cover and nesting tree for many birds, especially cavity-nesting woodpeckers. Many birds eat the seeds in the pine cones.
Blackjack oak <i>Quercus marilandica</i>	40'-60' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Acorns every two years in winter	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade High flammability	This is not a good landscape tree in some parts of Bastrop County. It is not long-lived and may spread oak wilt. In natural areas it is a very good wildlife tree, providing nest cavities and insects for birds. The acorns are eaten by many birds.
Bluejack oak <i>Quercus incana</i>	30'-40' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Acorns every two years in winter	Dry, deep, sandy uplands	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Good natural area and wildscape tree. Interesting branching. Provides cover, nest sites and acorns for food.
Post oak <i>Quercus stellata</i>	40'-50' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Acorns Winter	Sand, neutral clay	Full sun Low flammability	Beautiful large, slow-growing oak with fall color, dense leaves and interesting winter look. Wildlife is served by acorns, dense cover and nest cavities.

Water oak <i>Quercus nigra</i>	60'-80' Semi-evergreen	Inconspicuous	Acorns every 2 years in Winter	Sand, loam and clay, prefers moist	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Excellent dense shade tree. Acorns eaten by over 17 species of birds.
American elm <i>Ulmus americana</i>	30'-60' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Samara (winged fruit) Aug.-Oct.	Sand, loam and clay,	Full sun to shade Low flammability	Handsome landscape and shade tree. Seeds and buds eaten by many songbird species. Good cover and nest tree with insects for insect eating birds.
Cedar elm <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	30'-60' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Samara Aug.- Oct.	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Good landscape and street tree. Lovely gold and yellow fall color. Seeds and buds eaten by many species of birds.
Net-leaf hackberry <i>Celtis reticulata</i>	15'-30' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Drupe, orange-red Aug.-Sept.	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	This is not a good landscape tree. It is considered a trash tree. Good in natural area. One of the <u>best</u> wildlife trees. The fruit is eaten by many, many bird species. It provides good nest sites and cover. Excellent butterfly larvae food.
Sugarberry (sugar hackberry) <i>Celtis laevigata</i>	40'-60' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Berry, red to purple-black	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Not a good landscape tree but the very <u>best</u> kind of wildlife tree. Many species of birds feed on berries and use the tree for shelter and nest sites.
Bois d' arc <i>Maclura pomifera</i>	10'-25' Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Yellow-green drupelets, softball-sized ball. Sept.-Oct.	Well-drained loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Not a good landscape tree-messy. Good cover and nest tree. Bobwhites eat seeds of the fruit.
Texas Mulberry <i>Morus microphylla</i>	10'-25' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Mulberries Red to black May - June	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Messy landscape tree because of the fruit. The <u>best</u> source of spring fruit for neotropical migrant birds. Twenty-one species devour berries as soon as they are ripe.
Pecan <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	50'-60' Evergreen	Inconspicuous	Nut Sept.-Oct.	Sand, loam and clay	Full sun to part shade Low flammability	Beautiful, useful landscape tree. Nuts are valuable for all kinds of wildlife and many kinds of birds.
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	60'-80' Deciduous	Inconspicuous	Round seed head Sept-Oct.	Sand, loam and clay. Likes acid soil.	Full sun, part shade Low flammability	Globose fruit is eaten by a variety of bird species. Gold-finches and other finches are particularly fond of the fruit. Insects are found in the tree for insectivores.

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