

# Native Pollinator Habitat Plants of East Texas

USDA NRCS East Texas Plant Material Center  
6598 FM 2782 Nacogdoches, Texas 75964  
(936) 564-4873

|                          | <i>Rudbeckia grandiflora</i><br>Rough Coneflower   | <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i><br>Swamp Sunflower  | <i>Echinacea pallida</i><br>Pale Purple Coneflower  | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> L.<br>Black-eyed Susan  | <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i><br>Thickspike Gayfeather  |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
|                          |  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Duration</b>          | Perennial  | Perennial   | Perennial   | Annual, Biennial, Perennial  | Perennial   |
| <b>Bloom Time</b>        | July - August  | October   | May - July  | June - October   | August - December   |
| <b>Bloom Color</b>       | Yellow   | Yellow  | Pale Purple   | Orange - Yellow  | Purple  |
| <b>Height (ft.)</b>      | 2 to 4   | 1 to 5  | 1 to 3  | 1 to 3   | 3 to 5  |
| <b>Soil Types</b>        | Medium to Coarse   | Medium to Coarse  | Fine to Coarse  | Fine to Medium   | Fine to Coarse  |
| <b>Drought Tolerance</b> | Medium   | Medium  | Medium  | Medium   | Medium  |
| <b>Fire Tolerance</b>    | Low - Medium   | Medium  | High  | Medium   | None  |
| <b>Fertility</b>         | Low - Medium   | Low   | Low   | Medium   | Medium  |
| <b>Light Requirement</b> | Full Sun   | Part Shade  | Full Sun  | Full Sun   | Full Sun  |
| <b>Propagate</b>         | Seed   | Seed, Sprigs  | Seed  | Seed   | Core, Cutting, Seed   |
| <b>Seed/Pound</b>        | 1,000,000+   | 504,000   | 106,000   | 1,575,760  | 120,000   |
| <b>Remarks</b>           | This plant is in the same family as black-eyed susan, but its flowers are more similar in appearance to <i>Ratibola pinnata</i> . It is not as common as black-eyed Susan. | Swamp sunflower is not found in swampy areas as its name suggests. It is a prolific seed producer, and germinates very well. The seeds are attractive to birds and wildlife, and it provides blooms for pollinators late in the season. | Plants of this species were highly valued by Native Americans for medicinal purposes. There are many commercial varieties of <i>Echinacea</i> available with a vast array of color choices and flower shapes. | This plant has an extremely wide distribution, and is very adaptable to a wide range of environmental conditions. It can be invasive in areas it is not desired. | Gayfeathers are highly attractive to a wide variety of pollinators, especially butterflies. There are several species in this genus, most are very showy plants, producing bright purple flowers. |

|                          | <i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i><br>Yellow Wild Indigo   | <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i><br>Slender Mountain Mint  | <i>Dracopis amplexicaulis</i><br>Clasping Coneflower   | <i>Vernonia baldwinii</i><br>Ironweed   | <i>Monarda citriodora</i><br>Purple Horsemint  |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
|                          |  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Duration</b>          | Perennial  | Perennial   | Annual   | Perennial   | Annual   |
| <b>Bloom Time</b>        | April - June   | June - August   | April - July   | July - November   | May - July   |
| <b>Bloom Color</b>       | Bright Yellow  | White   | Bright Yellow  | Bright Purple   | Purple, White, Pink  |
| <b>Height (ft.)</b>      | 1 to 3   | 1 to 4  | 1 to 6   | 3 to 6  | 2 to 4   |
| <b>Soil Types</b>        | Medium to Coarse   | Fine to Medium  | Fine to Coarse   | Fine to Coarse  | Fine to Coarse   |
| <b>Drought Tolerance</b> | Medium   | Medium  | High   | Medium  | Medium   |
| <b>Fire Tolerance</b>    | Medium   | Medium  | None   | Medium  | None   |
| <b>Fertility</b>         | Low to Medium  | Low to Medium   | Low  | Low to Medium   | Medium   |
| <b>Light Requirement</b> | Full Sun   | Full Sun to Part Shade  | Full Sun to Part Shade   | Full Sun to Part Shade  | Full Sun to Part Shade   |
| <b>Propagate</b>         | Seed   | Cuttings, Division, Seed  | Seed   | Seed, Division, Cuttings  | Seed   |
| <b>Seed/Pound</b>        | 25,000   | 6,000,000+  | 1,600,000  | 520,000   | 800,000  |
| <b>Remarks</b>           | This legume is easily recognizable in the spring with its pale, blue-green foliage and bright yellow flowers. It desiccates in mid summer, and becomes unattractive. It is an excellent seed producer. | Typically found in low, moist areas, this plant is very attractive to pollinators and is highly aromatic. It gives off a strong minty smell when walked through or crushed. The seed are black and extremely small. | This plant is commonly found along roadsides in ditches and disturbed areas. It produces a very large cone, and large quantities of seed that germinate readily. | Flowers of this plant are extremely showy and vivid. It is highly attractive to butterflies. Few seeds are fertile, so heavy seedling rates are needed to establish this species. | Purple horsemint has many common names. It can form large colonies, and can be aggressive in cultivation. It is very attractive to a wide array of pollinators, and is easy to grow. |

|                          | <i>Mimosa strigillosa</i><br>Powder puff  | <i>Desmodium canadense</i><br>Showy Ticktrefoil   | <i>Solidago odora</i><br>Fragrant Goldenrod  | <i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i><br>Illinois Bundleflower   | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i><br>Butterfly Milkweed   |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
|                          |   |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Duration</b>          | Perennial   | Perennial   | Perennial  | Perennial  | Perennial   |
| <b>Bloom Time</b>        | May - July  | June - September  | July - August  | May - September  | May - September   |
| <b>Bloom Color</b>       | Pink  | Pink - Purple   | Yellow   | White  | Bright Orange   |
| <b>Height (ft.)</b>      | 1 or less   | 3 to 6  | 3 to 6   | 2 to 4   | 1 to 3  |
| <b>Soil Types</b>        | Fine to Coarse  | Fine to Coarse  | Medium to Coarse   | Fine to Coarse   | Medium to Coarse  |
| <b>Drought Tolerance</b> | High  | Low to Medium   | Medium to High   | Medium to High   | High  |
| <b>Fire Tolerance</b>    | Medium  | Low to Medium   | High   | Low  | High  |
| <b>Fertility</b>         | Low   | Moderate  | Low  | Medium to High   | Low   |
| <b>Light Requirement</b> | Full Sun  | Full Sun to Shade   | Full Sun   | Full Sun   | Full Sun to Part Shade  |
| <b>Propagate</b>         | Seed, Sprigs  | Seed  | Seed, Plant Division   | Seed   | Seed, Root Cuttings   |
| <b>Seed/Pound</b>        | 38,000  | 72,000  | 900,000  | 120,000  | 70,000  |
| <b>Remarks</b>           | This legume is very similar to sensitive briar, and occupies a similar niche. Lacking thorns, it is easily distinguished from sensitive briar. It is a low growing ground cover, and is very attractive to insects. | There are many species of <i>Desmodium</i> . <i>Desmodium</i> have high forage value for browsing animals, and are very attractive to a wide array of pollinators. They prefer moist soils, but will tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions. | Fragrant goldenrod's leaves give off a licorice smell when crushed. There are many species of goldenrods. All are excellent plants for attracting pollinators. They often occupy disturbed sites with moist soils. | Bundleflower is one of the best native, wildlife plants. It is a legume that has high forage value, produces large amounts of seed, and has a long bloom time that attracts pollinating insects. | Monarch butterflies are frequent visitors to this plant. It is difficult to establish, but produces a very showy, orange bloom. |

|                          | <i>Silphium laciniatum</i><br>Compass Plant  | <i>Tephrosia virginiana</i><br>Goat's Rue   | <i>Rubus trivialis</i><br>Southern Dewberry  | <i>Erythrina herbacea</i><br>Coralbean   | <i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i><br>Partridge Pea  |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
|                          |  |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Duration</b>          | Perennial  | Perennial   | Perennial  | Perennial  | Annual  |
| <b>Bloom Time</b>        | July - September   | April - July  | March - April  | March - November   | June - October  |
| <b>Bloom Color</b>       | Bright Yellow  | Yellow and Pink   | White  | Bright Red   | Yellow  |
| <b>Height (ft.)</b>      | 3 to 7   | 1 to 3  | 1 to 4   | 3 to 8   | 1 to 3  |
| <b>Soil Types</b>        | Medium to Coarse   | Medium to Coarse  | Medium to Coarse   | Fine to Coarse   | Medium to Coarse  |
| <b>Drought Tolerance</b> | High   | High  | Medium   | Medium   | Medium  |
| <b>Fire Tolerance</b>    | Medium   | Medium  | Medium   | Medium   | None  |
| <b>Fertility</b>         | Low  | Low   | Medium   | Medium   | Medium  |
| <b>Light Requirement</b> | Full Sun   | Full Sun to Shade   | Full Sun to Part Shade   | Full Sun to Part Shade   | Full Sun to Part Shade  |
| <b>Propagate</b>         | Seed   | Seed  | Seed, Plant Division   | Seed, Cuttings, Division   | Seed  |
| <b>Seed/Pound</b>        | 10,000   | 31,680  | N/A  | 1,500  | 64,000  |
| <b>Remarks</b>           | Compass plant needs well drained soil, and produces a tap root up to 15 feet long. It is long lived, slow growing, and drought resistant. The leaves are as rough as sandpaper. Its large seeds are used by birds and small mammals. | The roots of this legume contain rotenone, and were used by Native Americans to poison fish. The roots were beaten or crushed in cold ponds, and fish would rise to the top, stunned by the rotenone. The seed is attractive to wildlife. | The white flowers are attractive to a variety of insects, and the edible berries are used in jams, cobbles, and pies. Wildlife also utilizes the berries and deer will browse the foliage. | The bright red flowers of this legume attract hummingbirds and are very showy. The seed, which are also bright red, are poisonous. Care should be taken with children to avoid them ingesting the brightly colored seed. | Partridge pea is an important honey plant. It is also known as sleeping plant, and is considered toxic to livestock. Its leaves contain a cathartic substance. The seed is utilized heavily by quail and other birds. |



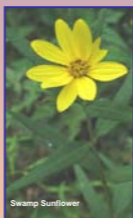
# Native Pollinator Habitat Plants of East Texas



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NRCS** Natural Resources  
Conservation Service



Rough Coneflower



Swamp Sunflower



Pale Purple Coneflower



Black-eyed Susan



Thickspike Gayfeather



Yellow Wild Indigo



Slender Mountain Mint



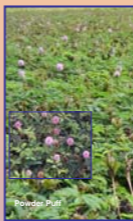
Clasping Coneflower



Ironweed



Purple Horsemint



Powder Puff



Showy Ticktrefoil



Fragrant Goldenrod



Illinois Bundleflower



Compass Plant



Butterfly Milkweed



Goat's Rue



Southern Dewberry



Coralbean



Partridge Pea