



# Naturescaping and Xeriscaping in the Texas Coastal Bend

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As natural areas around the world continue to diminish, the use of native plants proves to be an effective way to save water, money, and secure a future for many of our native plants and animals. Naturescaping rivals traditional gardening in beauty and design.

You can contribute to water conservation, help eliminate surface runoff, reduce pollution, protect our natural heritage, and attract beautiful birds. Most native plants, once established, are relatively cold, heat and drought tolerant.

Xeriscaping does not mean excluding attractive exotics. Exotics, especially naturalized exotics, can be used as accent areas within Naturescaping. It is important to choose plants that are known to work well in South Texas. Select plants that provide good cover and food for wildlife.

The annotated checklist below is in taxonomic order by families. Landscaping information, use of plants for wildlife, and horticulture information has been included. Habit value, cold tolerance, soil and water preferences are discussed.

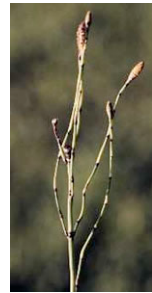
Six **endangered plants** are listed for South Texas: **black-lace cacti** (*Echinocereus reichenbachii albertii*), **Zapata bladderpod** (*Lesquerella thamnophila*), **sand-dollar cacti** (*Astrophytum asterias*), **ashy dogweed** (*Dyssodia tephroleuca*), **slender rush-pea** (*Hoffmanseggia tenella*), and **South Texas Ambrosia** (*Ambrosia cheiranthifolia*).

**\* Note: Please do not take specimens from the wild. Acquire all specimens from nursery grown stock.**

## ANNOTATED CHECKLIST:

### HORSETAIL FAMILY:

- **Horsetail/Scouring Rush** (*Equisetum hyemale*) – Perennial, spores borne on cones; prefers damp light soils. The leaves are attractive. It is usually associated with ponds.

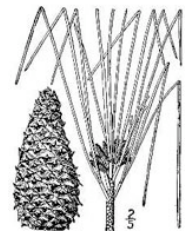


### FERN FAMILY:

- **Rock Fern** (*Cheilanthes alabamensis*) – Perennial, spores on leaves; prefers shaded caliche crevices west of the immediate coast. This is a drought and cold hardy plant. It may be used in conjunction with caliche.

### PINE:

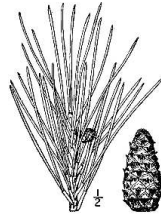
- **Loblolly Pine** (*Pinus taeda*) – Evergreen, producing cones, native of east Texas; unisexual, male and female flowers on same tree; prefers moist conditions, once established may endure dry conditions; no special value for wildlife in South Texas.





- **Slash Pine** (*Pinus elliottii*) –

Evergreen, producing cones, native of the southern Nearctic; unisexual, male and female flowers on same tree; prefers moist conditions but once established can endure dry conditions; no special value for wildlife in South Texas.



- **Shortleaf Pine** (*Pinus echinata*) –  
See Loblolly Pine.

### CYPRESS:



- **Ashe Juniper** (*Juniperus ashei*) –

Evergreen shrub or small tree, produces berries, native of Central Texas; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate plants; various soils; drought and cold hardy; berries eaten by many species of birds; management for spider mites may be required.



- **Southern Red Juniper** (*Juniperus virginiana*) –

Evergreen berry bearing shrub/tree, native of East Texas; unisexual; male and female flowers on separate plants; various soils; drought and cold hardy; berries eaten by many species of birds; management for spider mites may be required.



- **Bald Cypress** (*Taxodium distichum*) –

An attractive deciduous tree; cones; prefers clay/loam; enjoys large amounts of water; once established is fairly drought tolerant.

- **Montezuma Cypress** (*Taxodium mucronatum*) –

THREATENED; culture much like bald cypress. In U.S. restricted to a few sites along the lower Rio Grande River in Starr and Hidalgo Counties.

### EPHEDRA:




- **Joint-fir/Mormon Tea** (*Ephedra antisiphilitica*) –

A perennial shrub; drought and cold hardy, leaves scale-like, no thorns, flowers borne in ellipsoid cones, bisexual; prefers well drained sites, loam and caliche. Interesting, not especially good for wildlife.


## SEDGE:

- **Umbrella Sedge** (*Cyperus alternifolius*) –  
Naturalized perennial, occasional along streams and near ponds. Not especially good for wildlife, an exotic species of papyrus, used in landscaping for ponds, may need to be managed.

## PALMS:

- **Dwarf Palmetto** (*Sabal minor*) –  
A perennial; clay and loam; berries enjoyed by birds and other animals; prefers wet areas, when established is fairly drought hardy; cold hardy, does well in partial shade.
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- **Mexican Sabal Palm** (*Sabal mexicana*) –  
Perennial, native to lower Rio Grande Valley; drought and cold hardy; old trunks may be used by cavity nesting birds, especially woodpeckers and parrots. Barn owls use skirt of palms for nesting and roosting. Skirts may harbor roaches.
  - **California and Mexican Fan Palms** (*Washingtonia filifera* and *Washingtonia robusta*.) –  
Perennials; naturalized; once established drought and fairly cold hardy; dead fronds hang down forming skirt. Skirts may provide roosting site for birds and bats; old trunks provide nesting sites for owls, woodpeckers, and parrots. Skirts may harbor roaches.
  - **Windmill Palm and European Fan Palm** (*Chamaerops excelsa* and *Chamaerops humilis*) –  
Perennial shrub or small tree; ornamentation; cover; once established, drought and cold hardy. Not used by native wildlife.
  - **Senegal and Canary Island Date Palms** (*Phoenix reclinata* and *Phoenix canariensis*) -  
For information see California Fan Palm. Note: dying because of an exotic beetle that is difficult to control. Not recommended for this area.

## PINEAPPLE:

- **Bailey's Tillandsia** (*Tillandsia baileyi*) –  
Native tropical peripheral epiphytic perennial (Mexican species found in extreme South Texas); flowers purple, in dense bright coral-pink spikes; attractive. Hummingbirds frequent the flowers. Does well as far north as Rockport.
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- **Ballmoss** (*Tillandsia recurvata*) –  
Temperate epiphytic perennial; purple flowers borne in dense spikes; considered by many people to be a parasite, but it is not. Hummingbirds use seed fibers for nest building. Cold hardy.
  - **Spanish Moss** (*Tillandsia usneoides*) –  
Temperate epiphytic perennial with hanging threadlike stems and narrow linear gray leaves; flowers are not conspicuous, solitary and green. Plant attractive, the Carolina wren and Parula warbler often conceal nests within festoons. Drought and cold hardy. The plant is not a parasite.

## LILY:

- **Anthericum lily** (*Anthericum chandleri*) –  
Rare; tuberous perennial with grass like leaves; flowers showy; yellow-orange; sand or clay, well drained. Attractive; has possibilities for Naturescaping. Drought and cold hardy.

## CATBRIER:

- **Greenbrier** (*Smilax bona-nox* and *tamnoides*) –  
Prickly evergreen perennial vines; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate plants; attractive glossy heart shaped leaves with black-purple fruit; fruit favored by birds and mammals; once established drought and cold hardy.

## AGAVE:

- **Century Plant** (*Agave americana*) –  
Stem-less evergreen perennial; drought hardy; exceptional cold may damage plants; well-drained sites; clay/loam preferred; flowers are favored by nectar feeding birds and bats.
- **Texas Tuberose** (*Polianthes maculosa*) –  
Perennial succulent with narrow flexible leaves, forming rosette; flowers cream-white; showy and fragrant at night; attractive, panicles or racemes on tall stalks; enjoys well drained sites clay/loam/sand; drought and cold hardy; very attractive, favored by hummingbirds in the day and moths at night.
- **Spanish Dagger** (*Yucca constricta*, and *treculeana*) –  
Evergreen shrub with narrow spike like leaves, forming rosettes; drought and cold tolerant; showy white to pale green flowers in panicles or racemes; well drained clay/loam and locally on shell deposits along the coast, provides cover and nesting sites for birds. A symbiotic relationship exists between the yucca and yucca moth; people eat the flowers in Mexico. Yuccas have sharp pointed leaves; care should be taken to protect children.



## AMARYLLIS:

- **Rain Lily** (*Cooperia drummondii*, *jonesii*, *pedunculata* and *traubii*) –  
Perennials; four species found in the Coastal Bend; one is endemic (*C. jonesii*); various soils; fragrant white to yellow flowers appearing immediately following rain. Please consider using the endemic, *C. jonesii*.
- **Swamp Lily** (*Crinum americanum*) –  
Perennial; flowers white; fragrant; various soils; Attractive, prefers moist conditions, cold hardy.
- **Copper Lily** (*Habranthus tubispathus*) –  
Perennial; flowers reddish-orange; Attractive; various soils; drought hardy.
- **Spider Lily** (*Hymenocallis liriosme*) –  
Perennial, flowers white; fragrant; Attractive; various soils, prefers moist conditions, cold hardy.

## IRIS:

- **Purple Nymph** (*Alophia drummondii*) –  
Bulbous perennial with narrow pleated leaves, flowers deep purple-violet with yellow mottling near base; Attractive; sandy soils. Can be used in Naturescaping. Cold hardy.

- **Celestial** (*Trifurcia labue*) – Bulbous perennial with narrow pleated leaves; flowers blue-violet, pale beneath; Attractive; various soils. Has considerable potential for use in Naturescaping. Cold hardy.
- **Blue-eyed Grass** (*Sisyrinchium minus, pruinatum and bifforme*) – Perennials, flowers light violet-blue; Attractive, various soils. Has considerable potential for ground cover in Naturescaping. Cold hardy.

### ORCHID:

- **Spring Ladies Tresses** (*Spiranthes vernalis*) – A perennial with narrow leaves; flowers white, in terminal spikes. Attractive; sandy soils; prefers moist conditions, cold and fairly drought hardy. Has potential for a ground cover in Naturescaping. Cold hardy.



### WILLOW:

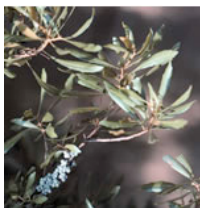


- **Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides*) – Deciduous tree; great for shade on west side of buildings in summer; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate trees; Attractive; various soils; once established drought and cold hardy; good cover. Can produce quantities of seeds and leaves. Seedless, “cottonless” varieties are available. Great for cavity nesting birds. Woodpeckers are often attracted to cottonwood trees.

- **Sandbar Willow** (*Salix interior*) – Deciduous shrub/tree; flowers in catkins; unisexual; male and female flowers on separate plants; loam and sand, prefers moist conditions, when established fairly drought and cold hardy. Sapsuckers are especially attracted to willows, occasionally eating its sap.
- **Black Willow** (*Salix nigra*) – Deciduous tree; flowers in catkins; unisexual; male and female flowers on separate plants; various soils; prefers moist conditions; well-established plants are fairly drought and cold hardy; seeds and plants are used by native birds and mammals. Sapsuckers are attracted to willows, some eating the sap.



### WAX MYRTLE:



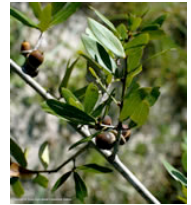
- **Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica cerifera*) – Aromatic evergreen shrub; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate plants; Attractive; prefers sandy soil; when established fairly drought and cold hardy; berries eaten by birds. Early settlers in this land rendered wax from its berries. Great for use as a hedge.

## WALNUT:

- **Eastern Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*) –  
Large deciduous tree; unisexual; male and female flowers on same plant, once established is fairly drought and cold hardy; various soils; excellent cover for wildlife.
- **Pecan** (*Carya illinoensis*) –  
Large deciduous tree; unisexual; male and female flowers on same plant; once established fairly drought and cold hardy; various soils; excellent cover, nuts eaten by birds and mammals. Flowers and small insects numerous, vireos and warblers are attracted to insects. At times can be a challenge to grow because of insects.

## OAKS:

- **Laurel Oak** (*Quercus hemisphaerica*) –  
Semi-evergreen tree/shrub; prefers sand but will adapt to various soils; drought and cold hardy; use as cover, nesting and roosting sites by birds; nuts eaten by birds and mammals.



- **Bur Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) –  
Deciduous tree; various soils; drought and cold hardy; excellent cover for birds and mammals. Acorns are large.

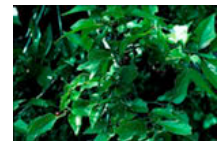
- **Blackjack Oak** (*Quercus marilandica*) –  
Deciduous tree; prefers sand; drought and cold hardy, nuts eaten by birds and mammals; used for cover and nesting by birds.



- **Live Oak** (*Quercus virginiana*) –  
Evergreen tree; various soils; attractive; drought hardy; nuts eaten by birds and mammals. Used for cover and nesting by birds. Area leaders should protect what remains of the naturally occurring oak woodlands in this area.

## ELM:

- **Sugar Hackberry** (*Celtis laevigata*) –  
Deciduous tree, various soils but not deep sand; prefers moist conditions, but once established drought and cold hardy; excellent for wildlife. Does well in this area.
- **Granjeno/ Spiny Hackberry** (*Celtis pallida*) –  
Spiny evergreen shrub/small tree; prefers clay and loam; drought and cold hardy; excellent for wildlife, has double straight thorns at nodes.
- **Net Leaf Hackberry** (*Celtis reticulata*) –  
Deciduous tree of various soils, does not enjoy deep sand, very drought and cold hardy, excellent for wildlife. Requires less water than Sugar Hackberry.



- **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*) –  
Deciduous tree, enjoys moist conditions, but when established drought and cold hardy, good for wildlife. Highly recommended. Does not enjoy deep sand.

## MULBERRY:

- **Red Mulberry** (*Morus rubra*) –  
Deciduous tree; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate trees; prefers moist conditions, when established is drought and cold hardy; excellent for wildlife. Note: may need to be managed for control of tent caterpillars. One plant may be all that is needed. Be aware that plants sold in nurseries may be fruitless. Plants that produce fruit for wildlife are more beneficial.



## MISTLETOE:

- **Mistletoe** (*Phoradendron tomentosum*) –  
A parasite with dark evergreen stems and leaves, white berries. Drought and cold hardy. Berries favored by birds. Mistletoe does not benefit host plants. The over abundance of parasites may cause host plants to die.

## BIRTHWORT:

- **Swan Flower** (*Aristolochia longiflora*) –  
Perennial with ascending or spreading stems; leaves mostly linear; solitary tubular dark flowers with yellow or greenish spots. Once established; cold and drought hardy. Prefer sand and sandy-loam. Attractive, can be use in hanging basket displays.

## POKEWEED:

- **Snake Eyes** (*Phaulothamnus spinescens*) –  
An attractive evergreen shrub, no thorns, various soils, does not like standing water; drought and fairly cold hardy, attractive translucent berries; great for birds and mammals. Highly recommended.
- **Pokeberry** (*Phytolacca americana*) –  
Annual (10-25 cm.); flowers in racemes, fruits dark purple; prefers moist conditions, once established can withstand some drought; cold hardy, prefers sand but can be grown in clay; berries enjoyed by numerous species of birds and mammals. Fairly shade tolerant. Highly recommended.



- **Pigeonberry** (*Rivina humilis*) –  
Perennial (1.5 m.); various soils; flowers pink or rose, producing beautiful cherry red berries; various soils; drought and cold hardy; berries especially favored by wildlife, somewhat difficult to manage, shade tolerant; a good ground cover. Highly recommended.

## FOUR-O'CLOCK:

- **Sand Verbena / Heart's Delight** (*Abronia ameliae*) –  
Sticky-pubescent perennial with spreading stems and beautiful violet-purple flowers; Endemic to South Texas; unisexual, drought and cold hardy, prefers sand. Attractive, highly recommended but may be a challenge to domesticate.
- **Angel's Trumpet** (*Acleisanthes longiflora*) –  
Perennial vine with oval or oblong-oval leaves; attractive white trumpet-shaped flowers, scented at night; clay and loam soils; drought and cold hardy.

- **Texas Four-O-Clock** (*Mirabilis lindheimeri*) –  
Perennial; flowers violet-purple; much like four-o'clock grown in gardens, flowers fragrant, open in the evening; various soils; prefers well drained damp conditions, but once established fairly drought and cold hardy, Attractive.
- **Scarlet Muskflower** (*Nyctaginea capitata*) –  
Perennial to 30 cm. high; flowers bright red; various soils, must be well drained; drought and cold hardy; favored by butterflies and other insects, very attractive.

### PURSLANE:

- **Rose Purslane** (*Talinum angustissimum*) –  
Perennial with upright stems to 40 cm., leaves succulent, linear, flowers (petals) 3-6 mm., orange or red, attractive! Can be used as a ground cover, drought but not cold hardy. Prefers direct sunlight.

### BUTTERCUP:

- **Old-Man's Beard** (*Clematis drummondii*) –  
Vine like shrub; flowers loosely clustered; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate plants; flowers not especially attractive, fruits feathery and conspicuous; various soils; drought and fairly cold hardy; used for cover by birds; fruit used in nest building for some species.
- **Leatherflower** (*Clematis pitcheri*) –  
Vine with glossy succulent leaves, attractive deep purple flowers; unisexual, male and female flowers on separate plants; various soils; drought and cold hardy.



### BARBERRY:

- **Agarito** (*Berberis trifoliolata*) –  
Evergreen shrub with spine tipped leaves, leaves three lobed; male and female flowers on separate plants, flowers yellow and very fragrant, fruit red, well drained clay/loam soils; drought and cold hardy, excellent for wildlife.

### MOONSEED

- **Snailseed** (*Cocculus carolinus*) –  
Semi-evergreen vine with glossy deep green leaves; attractive, red berries; prefers moist conditions, once established is fairly drought and cold hardy; excellent for wildlife.
- **Black Snailseed** (*Cocculus diversifolius*) –  
Semi-evergreen vine with glossy deep green leaves; black berries; drought and cold hardy, birds and mammals enjoy the berries.

### LAUREL:

- **Sweetbay** (*Persea borbonia*) –  
Evergreen shrub/tree to 7m; with elliptic glossy lime green leaves; flower clusters pale yellow; fruits blue-black; prefers sand; once established drought and cold hardy; birds and mammals enjoy eating the berries. Leaves used in cooking and deterring insects pests.



## MUSTARD:

- **Sea Rocket** (*Cakile lanceolata* ssp. *fusiformis*) – Annual with upright or prostrate stems to 4 dm., leaves succulent pale lime-green, entire or toothed or lobed; flowers in racemes, petals white or lavender. Attractive; prefers sites near salt water, common on beaches February - October. Drought hardy but not cold hardy.

## ROSE:

- **Wild goose Plum** (*Prunus munsoniana*) – Attractive deciduous tree, three or more meters high; flowers clustered, appearing before the leaves; white. Fruits 2-3 cm. long purple-red; sand; once established fairly drought and cold hardy; plums highly favored by wildlife.
- **Duraznillo** (*Prunus texana*) – Attractive deciduous shrub, usually 6-9 dm. high; flowers white clustered on short spurs, appearing before leaves; fruits about 1.8 cm.; sand; when established fairly drought and cold hardy; berries eaten by wildlife.
- **Dewberry** (*Rubus trivialis*) – Evergreen woody-based perennial shrub or sub-shrub with prickly stems to 1m. or more long; flowers attractive, white in color; fruit 1-2 cm. long, black; prefers well drained conditions; various soils; excellent cover for wildlife; birds and mammals relish the berries. Drought and cold hardy.

## PEA:

- **Guajillo** (*Acacia berlandieri*) – Spiny semi-evergreen shrub to 3 m. high, leaves two-pinnate, leaflets 3-7 mm. Flowers in heads 1-2 cm. wide, white or creamy, fragrant, can be attractive; favored by insects, well drained areas, clay and sandy loam, drought and cold hardy.
- **Catclaw** (*Acacia greggii*) – Spiny semi-deciduous shrub to 3 m. high; leaves 3-6 mm. long; flowers white-cream, flowers fragrant and pollinated by insects; prefers well drained sites; clays and loams; drought and cold hardy; good for wildlife.
- **Huisachillo** (*Acacia schaffneri*) – Spiny deciduous shrub to 2 m. high; leaves 2-pinnate with leaflets 2-4 mm. long; flowers attractive fragrant and gold-yellow; prefers well-drained sites; clays and loam's; drought and cold hardy; good for wildlife.
- **Huisache** (*Acacia smallii*) – Spiny evergreen scrub/tree to 6 m. high; leaves 2-pinnate, leaflets 2-4 mm. long; various soils; drought and cold hardy; good for wildlife. Plant often serves as hosts for numbers small 'inch' caterpillars; wood warblers relish the insects. Note: Huisache is frequently plagued by a species of beetle; beetles girt limbs and may alter the appearance of the tree.
- **Desert Poinciana** (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*) – Shrub/small tree that rarely exceeds 8m; flowers yellow stamens 10, bright red, various soils, well-drained sites; drought hardy; attractive; favored by butterflies and other insects. Note: a native of Argentina.

- **Barbados Pride** (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*) –  
Locally called Mexican poinciana; tropical shrub to 15 meters; flowers attractive red-orange, red or orange, mottled; fairly drought hardy, less cold hardy; prefers moist conditions; various soils; prefers well-drained sites; attractive; especially good for attracting butterflies.
- **Mexican Poinciana** (*Caesalpinia mexicana*) –  
Not to be confused with Barbados Pride (see above); tropical shrub/small tree to 26 m, flowers especially fragrant, not conspicuous; various soils; drought hardy, less cold hardy, good for attracting butterflies.
- **Lindheimer Senna** (*Cassia lindheimerrima*) –  
Tropical shrub to 1 m.; flowers yellow, fragrant and attractive with slender leaves; anthers red or brown; various soils, drought hardy; prefers well-drained sites. Note: naturally occurring on limestone soils in central and west Texas.
- **Paloverde** (*Cercidium macrum*) –  
Spiny deciduous shrub/tree; leaves 2-pinnate, leaflets 4-10 mm. Flowers in racemes, yellow. Drought and cold hardy, prefers clay soils. Good for wildlife: attractive.
- **Babybonnet** (*Coursetia axillaris*) –  
Tropical shrub with green-gray leaves; flowers white-pink; clay/loam soils; drought hardy; fairly cold hardy, native of this area but rare, common in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Attractive, highly recommended.
- **Bee Brush** (*Eysenhardtia texana*) –  
A deciduous shrub to 2.8 m, flowers in spike-like racemes; fragrant, various soils; drought and cold hardy; especially attractive to butterflies and other insects.
- **Coral Bean** (*Erythrina herbacea*) –  
Prickly woody-based perennial or deciduous shrub to 2 m. or more high; Flowers in spike-like racemes, bright red; various soils; drought hardy; may freeze back during periods of exceptionally cold weather; Attractive, excellent for hummingbirds and orioles.
- **Tepeguaje** (*Leucaena pulverulenta*) –  
An attractive, fast growing, but cold sensitive, tropical tree native to extreme South Texas. Has smooth, gray to brown branches spread into a broad rounded crown. Flowers white-cream in color, fragrant, in dense heads. Once established somewhat drought hardy. Note: Very similar to an aggressive exotic called White Popinac Lead-tree (*L. glauca*). Leaflets on Tepeguaje are smaller (leaflets 15-60 pairs, linear, oblique, acute or obtuse, glabrous or puberulous, 3- 6 mm. long) than the White Popinac Lead-tree (leaflets 6-15 mm. long). Can be found naturalized across South Texas. Not recommended for wildlife benefits.
- **Golden-Ball Lead-Tree** (*Leucaena retusa*) –  
Deciduous shrub/small tree to 10 m.; flower balls attractive, bright yellow; clay/loam soils; drought and cold hardy; prefers drained locations; native of southwest Texas.
- **Blue Bonnets** (*Lupinus subcarneus and texensis*)  
Attractive annuals of early spring, an excellent ground cover; five species are native to Texas. Two species are common to the Texas Coastal Bend: *L. subcarneus* and *L. texensis*. *L. subcarneus* prefers sand and is sometimes called the sand bluebonnet. The sand bluebonnet is difficult to grow in dark soils. *Lupinus texensis*, a favorite of many people, prefers darker (clay) soils. This Lupine species has been hybridized and is available for landscaping projects across Texas. Insects are attracted to bluebonnets. Once established fairly drought and cold hardy.
- **Vine Mimosa / Catclaw** (*Mimosa malacophylla*) –  
Perennial prickly vine; flower balls white; fragrant; various soils; drought hardy, may freeze down in winter but will return in the spring, attractive because its fragrance.

- **Texas Ebony** (*Chloroleucon ebanum*) –  
Not a true ebony; tropical evergreen tree/shrub to 40 feet; flowers cream-white, very fragrant, clay/loam soils; drought hardy; may freeze back during exceptionally cold weather; attractive; great cover and nesting sites for birds. Note: Have large seedpods, sometimes called Apes-earrings.
- **Tenaza** (*Havardia pallens*) –  
Spiny evergreen shrub or small tree, leaves two pinnate, leaflets 4-7 mm. Attractive; flowers white to creamy, fragrant, pollinated mainly by insects; prefers well drained sties, clay or loam; somewhat cold sensitive, drought hardy.
- **Honey Mesquite** (*Prosopis glandulosa*) –  
Spiny deciduous shrub/tree to about 11m; flowers greenish-white, drought and freeze hardy, beans eaten by wildlife; attractive, planted for shade and ornamentation. Beans falling on walk ways and drives can be a management challenge. Note: bark grubs can be a problem for this species and must be treated.
- **Tamaulipan Mesquite** (*Prosopis laevigata*) –  
Spiny semi-evergreen shrub/shall tree to 6 m.; flowers orange-yellow. Prefers clay and loam soils; drought and freeze hardy. Much like the Honey Mesquite but has smaller leaves. This species replaces the Honey Mesquite in Northeastern Mexico.
- **Tornillo** (*Prosopis reptans*) -  
Deciduous shrub or small tree with compound leaves and thorns, interesting screw shaped seedpods, various soils, drought and cold hardy. Good cover for wildlife.
- **Mescal Bean/Texas Mountain Laurel** (*Sophora secundiflora*) –  
Attractive, evergreen shrub or small tree, leaves pinnate with leaflets 3-7 cm. long. Flowers violet, rarely white or pink, flowers similar to wisteria; blooms during early spring; flowers fragrant. Pollinated by insects. Drought and cold hardy; may need to be managed for caterpillars. In the Texas Hill Country nests of the black-capped vireo are often found in this shrub.



## MALPIGHIA:

- **Barbados Cherry** (*Malpighia glabra*) –  
An evergreen shrub to 3.2 m.; flowers pink to reddish-purple; fruit red; various soils; drought and cold hardy; Attractive. Flowers favored by insects and berries by many birds and mammals. Can be used in landscaping as a hedge.

## CITRUS:

- **Colima/ Lime-prickly-ash** (*Zanthoxylum fagara*) –  
Prickly, has cat claw like double thorns located at each node, evergreen shrub to 3.2 m.; unisexual and bisexual; flowers inconspicuous; clay/loam; drought and cold hardy; excellent cover and nesting sites for birds. Birds eat the seeds.
- **Tickle-tongue** (*Zanthoxylum hirsutum*) –  
A prickly deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub to 3.2 m, unisexual with male and female on separate plants; sandy soils; drought and cold hardy.

### SPURGE (Euphorbia):

- **Southwest Bernardia** (*Bernardia myricifolia*) –  
A deciduous shrub to 2 m, unisexual, male and female flowers on separate plants; clay/loam; drought and cold hardy. Could be used as a hedge.
- **Jatropha** (*Jatropha cathartica*) –  
Tuberous-rooted perennial to 20 cm.; attractive leaves and coral red flowers; clay/loam; prefers well drained sites; drought and cold hardy, top stems will die back in fall; Attractive and interesting. For the most interesting look tuberous base should be placed partly above ground.
- **Leatherwood** (*Jatropha dioica*) –  
Deciduous perennial or sub-shrub with thick, pliable, erect stems to 75 cm.; forming colonies; unisexual; male and female flowers on separate plant; flowers inconspicuous white-cream; leaves color yellow in fall; clay/loam; drought and cold hardy; Interesting, good ground cover. The Spanish name means blood of the dragon.

### HOLLY:

- **Possum Haw** (*Ilex decidua*) –  
Deciduous shrub/small tree to 3.2 m.; flowers unisexual; inconspicuous white; clay/loam; prefers moist conditions, but when established fairly drought hardy; berries extremely attractive and greatly favored by birds and mammals.
- **Yaupon** (*Ilex vomitoria*) –  
Evergreen shrub/small tree to 3.2 m; flowers inconspicuous white; various soils; when established fairly drought hardy; berries extremely attractive; eaten by birds.

### BITTERSWEET:

- **Desert Yaupon** (*Schaefferia cuneifolia*) –  
Evergreen shrub to 1.7 m.; flowers inconspicuous greenish white; clay/loam; drought and cold hardy; prefers drained sites; attractive red berries highly favored by birds.

### SOAPBERRY:

- **Western Soapberry** (*Sapindus saponaria*) –  
Deciduous tree to 13 m.; flowers inconspicuous; various soils; drought and cold hardy; attractive, producing some color in the fall; berries conspicuous. Can be an excellent shade tree.
- **Texas Buckeye** (*Ungnadia speciosa*) –  
Deciduous tree/shrub; flowers attractive purple-rose; various soils; prefers moist conditions; when established fairly drought hardy; cold hardy. Flowers in early spring, at a distance may be confused with redbud.
- **Red Buckeye** (*Aesculus pavia*)  
Attractive deciduous broadleaf shrub 10-20 feet high. Shows red flowers in late spring and favored by hummingbirds. Cold and fairly drought hardy. Prefers a moist location.



## BUCKTHORN:

- **Brasil** (*Condalia hookeri*) –  
Thorny evergreen shrub/small tree to 4 m, simple leaves that are lime green in color; flowers inconspicuous yellow-green; clay/loam; drought and cold hardy; berries attractive, favored by wildlife.
- **Coyotillo** (*Karwinskia humboldtiana*) –  
A tropical evergreen shrub to 2.3 m.; flowers inconspicuous; drought hardy; not cold hardy; berries black and poisonous to people, favored by many species of birds and mammals.

## GRAPE:

- **Possam Grape** (*Cissus incisa*) –  
Perennial vine with stems to 5 m. or more; flowers inconspicuous, greenish in color; clay/loam; prefers moist conditions; when established fairly drought hardy; cold hardy; black berries favored by many birds and mammals. May need to be managed.
- **Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) –  
A deciduous woody vine with stems to 5m.; clay/loam; prefers moist conditions; when established fairly drought hardy; cold hardy; attractive leaves that color in the fall; black berries favored by many species of birds and mammals.
- **Mustang Grape** (*Vitis aestivalis* and *mustangensis*) –  
Deciduous woody vines with stems to 5 m. or more; flowers inconspicuous; various soils; drought and cold hardy; fruit highly favored by wildlife. Does well in cultivation, may require management.

## MALLOW:

- **Heart-leaf Hibiscus** (*Hibiscus cardiophyllus*) –  
Perennial or sub-shrub to 75 cm.; flowers solitary, attractive, bright red in color; clay/loam; prefers damp well-drained conditions; fairly drought hardy; not cold hardy; Attractive but may be difficult to grow.
- **Turk's Cap** (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) –  
Perennial shrub to 30 m. or more; flowers solitary, attractive red; various soils; drought and cold hardy; may freeze back during periods of cold weather; flowers preferred by hummingbirds. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds time their migration to coincide with the flowering period for the Turk's Cap Mallow. The peak flowering period is from late July through middle of October; birds and mammals enjoy the fruit.



## FLACOURTIA:

- **Brush Holly** (*Xylosma flexuosa*) –  
Perennial shrub to 30 cm., attractive red fruit; clay/loam; prefers damp well drained sites; may freeze back during periods of extreme cold; fairly drought hardy, may require water during periods of drought, birds and other animals enjoy the berries; rare, common in northeastern Mexico.

## VIOLACEAE:

- **Nod Violet** (*Hybanthus verticillatus*) –  
Attractive perennial ground cover to 30 cm.; attractive foliage and flowers; dark soil and sandy loam, may require water during dry periods. Cold hardy.
- **Violet** (*Viola missouriensis*) –  
Attractive perennial ground cover to 15 cm.; attractive foliage and flowers; dark soils and sandy loam; may require water during dry periods. Cold hardy.

## PASSIONFLOWER:

- **Lavender Passionflower** (*Passiflora foetida*) –  
Attractive perennial vine; flowers blue-violet; fruit 2-2.5 cm, red when ripe. Various soils, host plant for the gulf fritillary butterfly, birds and other animals enjoy the ripe fruit. May require irrigation.
- **Maypop** (*Passiflora incarnata*) –  
Attractive perennial vine; flowers blue-lavender; fruit 5 cm. and orange-yellow when ripe. Various soils; host plant for the gulf fritillary butterfly, birds and other animals enjoy the ripe fruits.

## MELON:

- **Balsam Gourd** (*Ibervillea lindheimeri*) –  
A perennial vine with attractive bulbous root (most attractive when bulb planted above ground), attractive red fruit, various soils, extremely drought and cold hardy (dies back in winter).

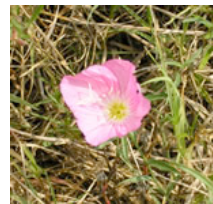
## CACTUS:

- **Fish Hook** (*Ancistrocactus scheeri*) –  
Attractive, stem cylindric, 6-15 cm. high, 3-4 cm. wide. Flowers 2.5-3 cm. long, petals greenish-yellow (February-March). Fruits green. Must have well-drained sandy soils with sun. Drought hardy.
- **Sea-urchin** (*Astrophytum asterias*) –  
Most attractive, no thorns: flattened hemisphere, with about eight ribs; greenish-gray in color; can reach 2.5 cm. across. Flowers pale yellow, prefers well-drained locations with large amounts of sun; sandy soils. Has been successfully cultivated. Considered a “**threatened**” species. Drought hardy.
- **Devil's Head** (*Echinocactus texensis*) –  
Attractive, stem hemispheric, 2-8 cm. high, 10-20 cm. wide. Flowers 4-5.5 cm. long, nearly as wide, petals pink to light purple or red (March-April). Fruits red. Must be well-drained, sandy loam and clay soils with sun. Drought hardy.
- **Yellow Alicoche** (*Echinocereus blanckii*) –  
Attractive, stems cylindric, 5-15 cm. long, 2-3 cm. wide, usually branched, flowers (April-May) light yellow petals reddish below. Fruits greenish. Must be well drained, with good amounts of sun, prefers sandy soil; it is not easy to cultivate. Drought hardy.
- **Petaya** (*Echinocereus enneacanthus*) –  
An attractive plant, stems cylindric, 15-40 cm, 4-6 cm. wide, forming clumps to 1m. or more broad. Flowers 6-8 cm. long and about as wide, petals are purple in color (April-May). Must be well-drained, sandy loam or loam soils. Enjoys considerable amounts of sun. Drought hardy.

- **Black-lace cactus** (*Echinocereus reichenbachii albertii*) –  
Attractive, stems cylindric, 3-5 cm. long, 3-4.5 cm. thick, usually branched. Flowers 5-8 cm. long, 5-7 cm. wide, with pink or purple petals (April-June). Must be well-drained; sand and loam. Enjoys considerable amounts of sun. Considered an “**endangered**” species. Drought hardy.
- **Turk's Head** (*Ferocactus hamatacanthus*) –  
Attractive, stem cylindric or subglobose, 15-20 cm. high and 8-15 cm. wide. Flowers 6-8 cm. long, nearly as wide, with solid yellow petals (June-July). Must have well-drained location, clay or sand. Drought hardy.
- **Twisted Rib** (*Ferocactus setispinus*) –  
Attractive, stems cylindric or subglobose, 4-30 cm. long, 6-12 cm. broad. The flowers are 5-6 cm. long, yellow petals reddish below (April-September). Must have well-drained location, various soils. Drought hardy.
- **Nipple Cactus** (*Mammillaria gummifera*) –  
Attractive, stems hemispheric or subglobose 1-6 cm. high, 4-13 cm. wide. Flowers pink or cream, not conspicuous; fruits red (very conspicuous) and attractive. Birds and other animals eat the berries. Must be located on well-drained location. Drought hardy.
- **Nipple Cactus** (*Mammillaria longimamma*) –  
Attractive, stems globose, 3-6 cm. long, forming dense clusters to 15 cm. or more broad. Flowers 4-6 cm. long, 4.5-6 cm. wide with yellow petals (May-July). Easily cultivated, prefers well-drained sites, sand and sandy loam. Drought hardy.
- **Pincushion** (*Mammillaria prolifera*) –  
Attractive, stems cylindric, 3-5 cm. long, 1.5-3 cm. wide, forming cushion like clusters to 15 cm. or more broad. Flowers 1.5-2 cm. long, about 1.2 cm. wide; petals light yellow (March-June). Fruits red, eaten by birds and other animals. Prefers well-drained clay soils. Drought hardy.

### EVENING-PRIMROSE:

- **Beach Evening Primrose** (*Oenothera drummondii*) –  
An attractive perennial with showy yellow flowers; sand, may require some water during dry periods.
- **Pink Evening Primrose** (*Oenothera speciosa*) –  
An attractive annual with showy pink, sometimes white, flowers; various soils, may require some water during dry periods.



### CARROT:

- **Queen Ann's Lace** (*Ammi majus*) –  
Attractive annual with showy white flowers; various soils, may require some water during dry periods.

### DOGWOOD:

- **Rough-leaf Dogwood** – (*Cornus drummondii*)  
Attractive deciduous annual with red stems (winter) and white flowers; various soils, once established can withstand some drought, requires water during periods of prolonged drought. Birds and other wildlife enjoy the clusters of dark berries.

### HEATH:

- **Farkleberry** (*Vaccinium arboreum*) –  
Attractive deciduous small tree or shrub with dark purple-black fruits; sand, drought and cold hardy.

### LEADWORT:

- **Sea Lavender** (*Limonium nashii*) –  
Attractive perennial 20-60 cm. high; clusters of lavender flowers; dried flowers and seed husk often used in dried flower arrangements, enjoys alkaline soils; drought and cold hardy, dies back during cold periods.

### SAPODILLA:

- **La Coma** (*Bumelia celastrina*) –  
Attractive thorny tropical evergreen small tree or shrub, flowers not showy, but fragrant; loam and sandy loam, once established drought and cold hardy, may be damaged during periods of extreme cold.

### PERSIMMON:

- **Chapote/Black Persimmon** (*Diospyros texana*) –  
Attractive deciduous shrub or small tree; unisexual, loam and sandy loam, the succulent black fruit is favored by many kinds of birds and other animals. Once established extremely drought and cold hardy.



### OLIVE:



- **Mexican Ash** (*Fraxinus berlandieriana*) –  
An attractive, large deciduous shade tree; prefers loam and sandy loam, cold hardy and fairly drought hardy. Management may be required to control webworms. A hybrid is available that has been developed to resist webworms.
- **Red Ash** (*Fraxinus pensylvanica*) –  
Similar to Mexican Ash but requires more water.

### STRYCHNINE:

- **Carolina Jessamine** (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) –  
An attractive, slender, evergreen vine, has conspicuous fragrant yellow flowers. One of the first vines in our area to bloom in spring; various soils, requires irrigation during dry periods, cold hardy. Favored by hummingbirds, orioles and insects, native to northeast Texas.

### MORNING-GLORY:

- **Blue morning glory** (*Ipomoea hederacea*) –  
Attractive perennial vine with extremely attractive showy blue flowers. Various soils, requires irrigation during dry periods, dies back during winter. All morning-glory flowers are highly favored by insects and hummingbirds.



## PHLOX:

- **Wild Phlox** (*Phlox drummondii*) –  
Extremely attractive annual with showy flowers; various soils, may require some irrigation during dry periods.

## HELIOTROPE:

- **Anacahuita/ Mexican dive** (*Cordia boissieri*) –  
Attractive evergreen shrub and small tree native of Upper Rio Grande Valley; has fragrant large white flowers. Flowers utilized by hummingbirds and insects, sweet fruits are edible but excessive consumption is said to produce dizziness and intoxication in humans.
- **Anacua** (*Ehretia anacua*) –  
Extremely attractive tropical evergreen tree with showy, fragrant, white flowers; various soils (may experience difficulty in deep sand), drought hardy, but damaged during periods of extreme cold. Fruit favored by birds and other animals.



## BLACK-MANGROVE:

- **Black Mangrove** (*Avicennia germinans*) –  
An attractive tropical evergreen shrub that produces aerial roots, fragrant flowers, various soils; must grow in or near salt water. Good for helping to control coastal erosion, provides cover for marine organisms, birds and other animals. May be damaged by cold weather.

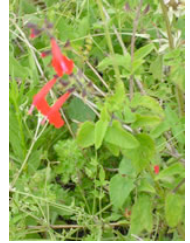
## VERBENA:

- **Shrubby Verbena** (*Aloysia macrostachya*) –  
A deciduous aromatic shrub with attractive lavender flowers, clay and loam soils, on drained sites, drought and cold hardy. Highly favored by butterflies.
- **American Beautyberry** (*Callicarpa americana*) –  
Attractive deciduous shrub with fragrant flowers, and beautiful purple berries, does best with some irrigation. The plant is cold hardy, favored by many species of birds and other animals.
- **Berlandier Fiddlewood** (*Citharexylum berlandieri*) –  
Attractive tropical deciduous shrub, leaves color yellow-gold, with clusters of red-gold berries. Loam and sandy loam, drought hardy but can not withstand periods of extreme cold. Fruit is highly favored by birds and other animals.
- **White Lantana** (*Lantana achyranthifolia*) –  
An attractive upright, sometimes spreading, shrub with attractive white flowers. Drought and cold hardy, flowers favored by butterflies and hummingbirds, seeds by birds.
- **Common Lantana** (*Lantana comara*) –  
Large-small shrub, beautiful pink flowers with pale yellow centers; ornamental plant, exotic to the area, grows well in various soils, drought and fairly cold hardy, can be aggressive at times. Like Texas Lantana, favored by birds and butterflies.
- **Texas Lantana** (*Lantana horrida*) –  
A shrub with beautiful hot orange flowers with pale gold centers, various soils; drought and fairly cold hardy. Flowers favored by hummingbirds and insects, seeds favored by birds.

- **Lavender Tree/Lilac Chaste-tree** (*Vitex agnus-castus*) –  
An attractive aromatic deciduous small tree. An exotic plant, with conspicuous spiked cluster of lavender flowers, prevails in various soils, drought and cold hardy. Flowers favored by butterflies and hummingbirds.

### MINT:

- **Shrubby Salvia** (*Salvia ballotiflora*) –  
Deciduous aromatic shrub with attractive blue flowers; dark soils and loams, drought and cold hardy; favored by butterflies.
- **Red Salvia** (*Salvia coccinea*) –  
Attractive perennial, 1 m. high, with attractive red flowers; various soils, drought hardy but does best with some irrigation. All salvias are highly favored by butterflies and hummingbirds, one of the earliest plants to bloom in the spring.
- **Mealycup Salvia** (*S. farinacea*) -  
Attractive perennial to 1 m. high, flowers blue violet. Salvias are often used to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Once established fairly drought hardy.



### NIGHTSHADE:

- **Chilipiquin/Bird Pepper** (*Capsicum annuum*) –  
A perennial with attractive dark green leaves and brightly colored red peppers; various soils, drought hardy. Will freeze to the ground during cold periods. Peppers favored by birds.
- **Wolfberry** (*Lycium carolinianum*) –  
A semi-evergreen thorny shrub, with lime green leaves and attractive red berries; dark soils and loams, drought and cold hardy, berries favored by birds and other animals.
- **Tree Tobacco** (*Nicotiana glauca*) –  
An evergreen shrub with gray-green simple leaves, attractive trumpet-shaped pale yellow flowers, clay and loam soils, drought hardy, requires well-drained sites, flowers highly favored by hummingbirds. A small songbird, the verdin, will pierce the flowers for its nectar.
- **Tomatillo/ White-nightshade** (*Solanum triquetrum*) –  
An attractive semi-vine with dark green leaves, white flowers and bright red berries, drought hardy, favored by birds.

### FIGWORT FAMILY:

- **Cenizo** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) –  
Attractive evergreen shrub with gray-green simple leaves, beautiful lavender flowers following rain, frequently called Texas purple sage. Cold and drought hardy; requires drained sites. Flowers favored by hummingbirds and insects, several hybrid forms have been created. Often referred to as “Texas sage,” it is not actually a sage.
- **Vine Snapdragon** (*Maurandya antirrhiniflora*) –  
An attractive perennial vine with beautiful deep lavender flowers. Makes a nice hanging basket plant, drought hardy but does best when irrigated; various soils.

## TRUMPET VINE:

- **Cross-vine** (*Bignonia capreolata*) –  
A perennial attractive semi-green vine, glossy green leaflets and attractive reddish brown and yellow orange. Flowers mainly in spring. Once established drought tolerant and cold hardy. Hummingbirds enjoy the flowers.
- **Trumpet Creeper** (*Campsis radicans*) –  
A deciduous woody vine with attractive large orange-red tubular flowers, various soils, drought and cold hardy. Flowers highly favored by hummingbirds.
- **Yellow Trumpet/Yellow-elder/ Esperanza/Yellow bells** (*Tecoma stans*) –  
Perennial shrub or small tree 4-6 m. high; attractive yellow funnel shaped flowers. Enjoys full sun. Drought hardy; can be damaged by extremely cold weather; various soils, favored by hummingbirds, orioles and insects.
- **Desert-willow** (*Chilopsis linearis*) –  
Deciduous shrub or small tree 25 m. or more high, flowers in panicles 2.5- 6mm, showy and attractive; native to West Texas. It is drought and cold hardy; prefers loam. Favored by insects, orioles and hummingbirds. Recommended for its value to wildlife.

## MADDER FAMILY:

- **Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) –  
Deciduous shrub with attractive simple dark green leaves and white flowers; various soils, cold hardy but prefers considerable amounts of water. Flowers favored by insects.

## HONEYSUCKLE:

- **Coral Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*) –  
Semi-evergreen vine with attractive tubular red-orange flowers, cold hardy but requires some irrigation, highly favored by hummingbirds.
- **Elderberry** (*Sambucus canadensis*) –  
Deciduous shrub with attractive white flowers and succulent black-blue berries; cold hardy but requires some irrigation; berries highly favored by birds.

## BLUEBELL:

- **Bluebell** (*Lobelia berlandieri*) –  
Annual with attractive, showy, violet-blue flowers; cold and drought hardy, does best with irrigation during dry periods. Best used as a bedding plant.

## SUNFLOWER:

- **Ragweed** (*Ambrosia* spp.) –  
Annual dark green plants of varying heights. All ragweeds produce seeds that are highly favored by birds. May produce quantities of pollen in various soils.
- **Mist-flower** (*Eupatorium* spp.) –  
Several species are found in this area. All seven are medium-sized shrub-vines that have attractive ice blue flowers in late summer and early fall. All do well on various soils; highly favored by butterflies. Top dies following a freeze. These do so well that at times may require management.

- **Indian Blanket** (*Gaillardia* spp.) –  
Annuals, all are attractive wildflowers, most especially Fire-wheel (*Gaillardia pulchella*); various soils. Fairly drought hardy but they do best when irrigated. During mild winters may continue to thrive for a period of time. Like most composites favored by butterflies and other insects.
- **Gumweed** (*Grindelia microcephala*) –  
An attractive annual, 60 cm. or more high; various soils, drought hardy, favored by butterflies and other insects. Will die back when the weather turns cold.
- **Maximilian Sunflower** (*Helianthus maximiliani*) –  
An attractive annual with showy golden daisy like flowers, various soils, drought hardy. All sunflower seeds are highly favored by seed eating birds.
- **Gay Feather** (*Liatris elegans, mucronata, and bracteata*) –  
Perennials to 60 cm. high, dark green, feathery leaves. Has attractive purple flowers in late summer; mainly associated with grasslands on sand or loam. In landscaping does best with little or no care. With care becomes lanky and will fall over on the ground, cold and drought hardy. Highly recommended for landscaping opportunities that represent grassland communities.
- **Purple Palafoxia** (*Palafoxia hookeriana and texana*) –  
An attractive purple flowered annual 3-12dm high, blooms in late summer and early fall. Various soils, drought hardy; will die back during periods of cold weather. Favored by butterflies and other insects, intergradation with *P. rosea* of central Texas. Highly recommended for landscaping opportunities that represent grassland communities.
- **Goldenrod** (*Solidago altissima, odora, and sempervirens*) –  
All are attractive annuals with clusters of golden flowers; late summer and early fall. Drought hardy, various soils, will die back in cold weather; favored by butterflies.

### **INVASIVE PLANTS THAT SHOULD BE ERADICATED (SHOULD NOT BE PLANTED)**

- **Tree-of-Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*) –  
Saplings can grow up to 4 ft. per year. Able to grow in very poor soil conditions  
The plant is a problem in Texas Hill Country, not a problem here.
- **Mimosa** (*Albizia julibrissin*) –  
Leaves resemble a fern's leaf. The pink colored flowers are very fragrant. Difficult to remove due to the longevity of its seeds. Not a problem in this area.
- **Giant Reed** (*Arundo donax*) –  
Aggressive, does not propagate by seed. Can be a serious problem. It is a serious problem along the Rio Grande River and locally in the Coastal Bend.
- **Australian Pine/Horsetail Beefwood** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) –  
Trees attain a height of 55 m or more, and a diameter of 2.5 m. At a distance appears to be a pine. Native of Asia and Australia; cold sensitive; can be a problem along the immediate coast. Provides very little benefit for wildlife.
- **Water-Hyacinth** (*Eichhornia crassipes*) –  
Keeps sunlight from reaching other aquatic plants. Infested areas inhibit wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Should be removed from places such as Lake Corpus Christi and other lakes in southern North America.

- **English Ivy** (*Hedera helix*) –  
An evergreen vine growing up to 100ft in length. English Ivy is commonly used as an ornamental plant. A serious challenge in east Texas. Currently English Ivy has not been a problem in the local area.
- **Popinac** (*Leucaena leucocephala*) –  
Aggressive. Most numerous along the immediate coast. Serious problem on islands in Laguna Madre.
- **Wax-leaf Ligustrum** (*Ligustrum lucidum*) –  
Usually forms in dense clusters and once established hard to eradicate. Established mainly east and north of the Mission River. Can be a problem; birds enjoy the berries.
- **Chinese Privet** (*Ligustrum sinensis*) –  
Serious problem in southern forests. occurs in Refugio, Calhoun, and Aransas counties. Very similar characteristics to Wax-Leaf Ligustrum
- **Japanese Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica*) –  
Tends to wrap around saplings and can cover tree canopies which blocks sunlight to vegetation below; a problem in Refugio, Calhoun and Aransas Counties.
- **Purple Loosetrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*) –  
*Lythrum salicaria* has not invaded in this area yet. Spreads rapidly and displaces native vegetation and wildlife. It grows in wetland areas, ditches, and around ponds.
- **Yellow Trumpet Vine/ Cat's-claw vine** (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) –  
Very aggressive. Destroys trees and shrubs along rivers. It is an especially serious problem along the Mission River near Refugio.
- **Paperbark Tree** (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) –  
Mainly found in southern Florida; Invades wetlands turning them into dense areas of concentrated Paperbark Trees. Reported to occur in South Texas.
- **Nandina** (*Nandina domestica*) –  
A problem in some parts of Texas i.e. Hill Country. Used in landscaping for a color. It produces deep green leaves and bright red berries. Not a problem here.
- **Guineagrass** (*Panicum maximum*) –  
The most serious problem of all invasive plants in the Texas Coastal Bend because it is very aggressive and out-competes most native grasses.
- **Water Lettuce** (*Pistia stratiotes*)-  
Has not been a problem here but could be during wet periods. It clogs waterways preventing the natural flow of water.
- **Castor-bean** (*Ricinus communis*) –  
Aggressive. Thus far mainly at Pollywog Pond Sanctuary. The fruit this plant produces contains the poison called “ricin”. The poison is harmful to animals, humans and insects. This species is a local challenge.
- **Macartney Rose** (*Rosa bracteata*) –  
A problem along the Upper Texas Coast. Found in Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties. Locally a few places near Ingleside and Aransas Pass.
- **Multiflora Rose** (*Rosa multiflora*) –  
A very aggressive plant that can restrict movement of wildlife, livestock, and humans. Has been used in the past as a living fence. Does not in the Coastal Bend area.

- **Chinese Tallow** (*Sapium sebiferum*) –  
Chinese Tallow is a rapidly spreading species. It tends out-compete native vegetation and can grow in a variety of locations. It is currently sold as an ornamental plant in nurseries. It is a serious challenge for the Upper Texas Coast and elsewhere east of Texas. Locally it is a problem.
- **Brazilian Peppertree** (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) –  
Dense foliage keeps sunlight from penetrating its canopy. Difficult to eradicate due to the number of seeds it produces. Out-competes native vegetation. Aggressive, birds like the berries. Mainly a challenge along immediate coast
- **Salt Cedar** (*Tamarix aphylla*) –  
An evergreen tree 6 m. or more with gray-green leaves. Flowers mauve-pink about 2mm; long, mauve-petals about 2 mm long; native of North Africa and South Asia. It is an especially aggressive plant that requires large quantities of water; has special adaptations to out-compete native species.
- **Salt Cedar** (*Tamarix canariensis, chinensis, gallica, and ramosissima*) –  
Deciduous shrubs or small tree to 3 m. or more high, native to Mediterranean, Canary Islands, China, Japan, south Europe, Russia and south Asia. It is an especially aggressive plant that requires large quantities of water; has special adaptations to out-compete native species.
- **Common Mullein** (*Verbascum thapsus*) –  
Produces seeds that live for a very long time. Few wildlife species use the plant for food or shelter. Plant does not do well in shade or this area.
- **Wisteria** (*Wisteria sinensis* and *floribunda*) –  
Wraps around trees and other plants blocking out sunlight. Has not posed a problem in this area.