

Appendix V

Gulf Coastal Prairies and Marshes including the Coastal Bend

Following the lip of the Texas coast, and extending inland about 60 miles, are the Gulf Coastal Prairies and Marshes. This 9,500,000-acre swath of land traces a broad arc along the coast from the Sabine River to Baffin Bay. Elevations range from near sea level to almost 150 feet, while annual average temperatures range from 74° F to 70° F. Soils of the marshy areas include acid sands, sandy loams and clay. Soils of the Gulf Prairies contain more clay than the marsh areas and are very rich in nutrients (Simpson, 1988). The character of the coastline is shaped by the long and continuous confrontation with the sea, wind, and rain. Storms shape this place as a sculptor works clay, creating here and inland, a tapestry of shallow bays, estuaries, salt marshes, dunes and tidal flats. Because of the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, many plants are highly salt tolerant or halophytic. The Coastal Bend begins at mid-coast near Corpus Christi where the shoreline is edged by Mustang and Padre Islands, described as part of the longest chain of barrier islands in the world. Here, Island dunes are dappled with sea oats, glasswort, beach evening primrose and railroad vine, hardy colonizers of the shifting beach-head sands. Sandy soils of the Coastal Bend also support distinctive chenier woodlands of scrub oaks, yaupon, red-bay, and wax-myrtle. Tallgrass and midgrass prairies, as well as spartina marshes, make up a major portion of the coastal vegetation. Much of the upland areas are dissected with numerous sluggish rivers, bayous, creeks, and sloughs. Between the rivers, extensive open prairies are dominated by little bluestem, Indiangrass and various sedges. At one time, the coastal river bottoms of this area were clothed in woodlands of sugarberry, pecan, elms and coastal live oaks. Few such areas remain today, as most of these prairies are farmed, or absorbed into urban areas. Much of the remaining native sod of the Coastal Prairies has been invaded by exotics such as MaCartney rose and Chinese tallow or native woody species including mesquite, prickly-pear, acacias and scrub oaks (Gould, 1975). Today rich coastal prairie soils are grazed for cattle production or farmed in rice, corn, grain sorghum, and cotton, while the northeastern end of this region is intensively devoted to the oil and petrochemical industries (Winckler, 1982).

Coastal areas are rich in wildlife. Where treeless earth meets endless sky, coastal marshes harbor hundreds of thousands of wintering geese and ducks and provide critical landfall in the spring for neotropical migratory birds. The area is home to important wildlife sanctuaries and refuges -- notably those protecting the endangered Attwater's Prairie-Chicken and the Whooping Crane. In the fall, coastal dunes serve as sentry roosts for northward-bound migrating peregrine falcons, while at any season there are lone willets, mini battalions of sanderlings, and congregations of gulls, terns and black skimmers feeding or loafing near the surf.

TEXAS WILDSCAPES NATIVE PLANT TABLES
BIBLIOGRAPHY - GULF COAST PRAIRIES & MARSHES

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Wildscapes Plant List -- Gulf Prairies and Marshes

SPECIES	FAMILY	HABIT HEIGHT	FLOWER	FRUIT	SUN EXPOSURE	HABITAT	SOILS & MOISTURE REGIME	VEGETATION ZONE										ORNAMENTAL VALUE	WILDLIFE VALUE			
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
<i>Acer rubrum</i> v. <i>drummondii</i> Drummond red maple	Aceraceae Maple Family	Tree, large 90' - 100'	Showy bright red clusters, before leaves Feb.	Samara with two wings, March-June	Full sun, Part shade	Prefers wet areas on sandy lands, swamps & alluvial forest. Also found on drier ridges throughout Piney woods in East Texas also Upper Texas Coast.	Sands, loams, and clays. Likes acid soils, but tolerates gumbo soils. Mesic-hydric, poor drainage O.K.	X	X	X											Large shade tree with simple distinctively-shaped leaves which turn red in the fall. Popular ornamental and shade tree, as they are beautiful both spring & fall. Relatively short-lived with shallow root system. Does well in Houston. Deciduous.	Many kinds of birds feed on the winged seeds, i.e. woodpeckers, cardinals, finches, robins, cedar waxwings, warblers, & sparrows, also squirrels & rabbits. Good cover & nesting tree. Good substrate for insectivorous birds. Foliage browsed by deer.
<i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i> Woolly-bucket bumelia	Sapotaceae Sapodilla Family	Tree, large 40' - 80'	White perfect flowers, fragrant June - July	Berries, blue-black, Sept.-Oct.	Full sun, Part shade	Mostly uplands, sometimes bottomlands, woodlands, edges and fencerows.	Sandy loams, loams, and clays. Tolerates gumbo. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	Large shade tree with simple green leaves with white woolly undersurface. Persistent.	Several species of birds feed on the fruit, including cardinals, finches, robins, cedar waxwings, warblers, and vireos. Good cover and nesting tree due to protective thorns. Good substrate for insectivorous birds.
<i>Carya ovata</i> Shagbark hickory	Juglandaceae Walnut Family	Tree, large 60' - 100'	inconspicuous green m catkins & f spikes on same trees March - June	Hickory, Sept.-Oct.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers rich woodlands, bottoms & slopes, often near streams & swamps	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X												Tall shade tree with oblong crown & shaggy bark. Slow-growing, but long-lived. Leaves are compound with serrated edges. Next to pecan, this tree has tastiest nuts. Very shade-tolerant when young. Sometimes subject to insect damage. Deciduous.	Game birds such as turkey, bobwhite quail love the nuts as do many kinds of mammals. Several other birds, i.e., jays, woodpeckers & doves will eat the nuts too. Good cover & nesting tree. Good substrate for insectivorous birds.

<i>Celtis laevigata</i> Sugarberry	Ulmaceae - Elm Family	Tree, large 40' - 60'	inconspicuous, small, greenish May - June	Berry (drupe), orange-red to purplish-black, July-Aug.	Full sun, part shade	Rocky or alluvial soils along streams, in woodlands & thickets.	Sands, loams, and clays. Prefers rich soils, but will tolerate wide range. Well-drained, mesic to xeric; drought tolerant once established.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Fast-growing shade tree adapted to most soils. Very drought tolerant. Yellow autumn color. Deciduous.	Fruit eaten by bluebirds, robins, cardinals, mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, thrashers, & sparrows. Good nest & cover tree, esp. for neotropical migrants. Larval food plant for Question Mark, Mourning Cloak, Pale Emperor, Snout & Hackberry butterflies.
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> American beech	Fagaceae - Beech Family	Tree, large 80' - 100'	inconspicuous m & f flowers on same tree April - May	Nut, Sept.-Nov.	Full sun, part shade	Grows in deep, rich, fertile soils along streams & woodlands of Piney woods region.	Sandy loams, alluvial soils. Well-drained, mesic.	X										Handsome shade tree with beautiful shiny green leaves and smooth gray bark. Leaves turn copper gold in the fall. Deciduous.	Excellent cover & nesting tree. Prickly burrs contain sweet nuts relished by several kinds of game & songbirds, i.e. woodpeckers, titmice, nuthatches, jays & sparrows. Also eaten by raccoon, beaver, opossum & fox. Deer eat nuts & browse leaves.
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> White ash	Oleaceae - Olive Family	Tree, large 60' - 70'	inconspicuous m & f flower clusters April - May	Samara, Aug.-Sept.	Full sun, part shade	Grows in deep, rich moist soils on slopes & stream bottoms in eastern third of Texas.	Sands, loams & clays. Needs moisture, but good drainage.	X	X	X	X	X						Beautiful shade tree with compound leaves turning delicate shades of pink, orange & purple in fall. Trees in open condition have short trunk & round top, in the forest, long trunk & narrow crown. Deciduous.	Excellent cover & nesting tree. Seeds are eaten by several species of birds, i.e., wood duck, bobwhite, sapsuckers, cedar waxwings, finches, cardinals & sparrows. Deer browse leaves. LHP for Mourning cloak, Two-tailed and Tiger swallowtails.
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> Green ash	Oleaceae - Olive Family	Tree, large 30' - 80'	inconspicuous m & f yellowish catkins & spikes April - May	Samara, Sept.-Oct.	Full sun, part shade	Alluvial woods & swamps along rivers & streams, swales & depressions in prairies	Acid sands, sandy loams & heavy limestone clays. Needs moisture; poor drainage O.K.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Fairly fast-growing & long-lived shade tree. Brilliant yellow autumn color. Deciduous.	Excellent cover and nesting tree. Cardinals, finches, red-winged blackbirds relish fruit. Foliage browsed by cottontails and white-tailed deer. Larval host plant for Two-tailed tiger swallowtail and Tiger swallow-tail.

<i>Aralia spinosa</i> Devil's walking-stick	Araliaceae - Ginseng Family	Tree, small 12' - 30'	Showy, large 1-foot clusters of small yellowish white flowers July.- Aug.	Drupes, wine-red to black & juicy with a single seed, Sept.-Oct	Part shade, dappled shade, shade	Prefers rich moist soils along streams, woods & thickets, moist bottomlands of East Texas and Upper Texas Coast. Grows in Houston.	Sandy loams, loams. Mesic, likes moist soils.	X	X											Highly unusual understory tree with incredible twice pinnate leaves up to 4-feet long. Leaf stalks armed with small spines. Gorgeous bronze red & yellow fall color. Fast-growing, but rather short lived. Ornamental possibilities. Bizarre. Deciduous.	Flowers attract many insects, bees & butterflies, etc. Fruits are relished by many species of birds 7 the leaves are browsed by deer. Definitely a conversation piece.
<i>Asimina triloba</i> Common paw paw	Annonaceae - Custard Apple Family	Tree, small 20' - 30'	Exotic maroon fleshy flowers April - May	Paw paw, Sept.-Oct	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers deep rich soils of bottomlands & creek valleys in deep East & northeast Texas.	Sands, sandy loams, loams & clays. Mesic-hydric soils; prefers moist situations.	X	X	X										Tropical-looking understory tree with large aromatic leaves. Leaves turn rich butter yellow in the fall. Prefers moist situations protected from the wind. Deciduous.	The luscious fruit is eaten by several kinds of wildlife, both birds & mammals. Fruits rarely stay on the tree long enough to get ripe. Larval host plant of the Zebra swallowtail.
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> American hornbeam (Blue beech)	Betulaceae - Birch Family	Tree, small 15' - 30'	inconspicuous m & female catkins on same tree March - May	Nutlets, in clusters, Sept.-Oct	Part shade, dappled shade, shade	Prefers rich bottomlands, often along steams in moist woods.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic-hydric soils.	X	X	X										Airy, graceful understory tree with simple, alternate leaves & jaunty fruits. Notable for its beautiful trunk which is smooth & sinewy. Very shade tolerant. Though it likes moisture, it doesn't tolerate flooding. Slow-growing & short-lived. Deciduous.	Nutlets are eaten by squirrels & other small mammals. Birds such as cardinals & finches also savor them. Larval host plant of Striped hairstreak, Red-spotted purple & Tiger swallowtail.
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i> Titi	Cyrillaceae Cyrilla Family	Tree, small 10' - 30'	Showy racemes of yellowish white flowers, fragrant. May	Capsules, egg-shaped with one to several small hard seeds August - Sept.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers wetland areas, swamps & bottomlands of Piney Woods & Gulf Coast Prairies & Marshes. Also occurs on sandy ridges.	Sands, sandy loams, loams, acid soils preferred. Tolerates gumbo. Hydric, poor drainage O.K.	X	X											Highly attractive almost evergreen tree which can form thickets. Great around shallow ponds & bog areas. Smooth cinnamon colored trunk with interesting flowers. Leaves reddish yellow in the fall. Persistent to evergreen.	Bees are highly attracted to the fragrant flowers. Fruits turn a mellow yellowish brown when ripe & seeds are eaten by small mammals & a few species of birds.
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> Common persimmon	Ebenaceae - Ebony Family	Tree, small 30' - 40'	inconspicuous, m & f greenish yellow flowers on separate tree, fragrant April - June	Berry (persimmon) August - Feb.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers dryish woods, old fields & clearings, ditch banks in East Texas. Also mud bottomlands.	Sands, loams & clays. Thrives on almost any kind of soil. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X						X		Good understory tree or accent tree with drooping branches & conical crown. Good erosion control plant. Deciduous.	Fruit eaten by 16 species of birds, also by skunks, raccoons, opossums gray & fox squirrels. Leaves browsed by deer.

<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> Carolina buckthorn	Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family	Tree, small 12' - 20'	inconspicuous, small greenish-yellow flowers May - June	Drupes, reddish brown August - Sept.	Full sun, part shade, shade	Prefers moist woods, fence rows, along creeks, heads of draws & canyon slopes.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X							Very attractive understory tree with pretty leaves and berries. Quite ornamental and adapted to a wide range of sites. Has good fall color & fruits borne over a long time. Deciduous.	When ripe, fruits are devoured by several species of birds, i.e. thrashers, robins, mockingbirds, cardinals, finches, etc. Flowers are good nectar source for bees, butterflies & other insects. Larval host plant for Gray hairstreak.
<i>Rhus copallina</i> Flameleaf sumac	Anacardiaceae Sumac Family	Tree, small 15' - 25'	m & f flowers, small greenish white, on separate trees July - Aug.	Drupes, small red, in clusters, remain after leaves fall. Sept. - Nov.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers fence rows, fields and bottomlands in East & East Central TX. Tolerates rocky areas.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X							A small, commonly clump-forming shrub or small tree with elegant compound leaves and showy red fruit clusters. Only trees with f flowers have fruit. Beautiful red color in the fall. Fast growing. Deciduous.	Fruit is eaten by at least 21 species of birds. Flowers attract numerous insects in spring, good nectar source for bees & butterflies. Larval host plant for Red-banded hairstreak.
<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> Farkleberry	Ericaceae - Heath Family	Tree, small 15' - 30'	small drooping, run-shaped white flowers May - June	Berries, blue, Sept.-Oct	Part shade, dappled shade	Prefers open mixed woods, dry sterile hillsides or pimple mounds in bottomland woods. Found in East Texas west to Bastrop & Nueces counties.	Sands & sandy loams. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X										Attractive irregular shrub to small tree with shiny smooth dark green leaves. Good understory tree. Tree had good red fall color fading to deep purple. Persistent to evergreen.	The small blue berries which ripen in the fall are devoured by several species of resident & wintering birds. Berries also sought after by various small mammals, i.e., squirrels, rabbits, etc. Larval host plant to Henry's elfin & Striped hairstreak.
<i>Aesculus pavia</i> Red buckeye	Hippocastanaceae Horse chestnut Family	Tree, ornamental 10' - 35'	Showy red/yellow tubular flowers in clusters. March	Capsule, round & leathery Sept.	Part shade, dappled shade, shade	Prefers moist soils in forests, along streams, thickets & rocky hills	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic. Moderate moisture.	X	X	X	X			X	X					Showy small tree or shrub with rounded crown, distinctive flower clusters and attractive palmate leaves. Blooms very early; loses leaves early. Good understory tree. Deciduous, early.	The scarlet tubular flowers are visited by hummingbirds. Butterflies are also attracted to the nectar. Seeds are poisonous, however, and not eaten by wildlife.
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> <i>v.</i> <i>canadensis</i> Eastern redbud	Leguminosae - Legume Family	Tree, ornamental 10' - 40'	Showy magenta pea-like flowers, before leaves. March	Legumes, brownish-red, in clusters Sept.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers forested sandy areas, upland woods, woodland edges & and along stream banks in Eastern Texas.	Sands, loams & heavy black clays. Well-drained, mesic. Moderate moisture.	X	X	X	X									Highly ornamental and showy small tree with spreading, flat or rounded crown. Good understory tree or accent plant. Fast growing, usually with single trunk. Deciduous.	Beautiful magenta flowers are copious early nectar source for butterflies, moths, bees, etc. Seeds are eaten by a number of species of birds; foliage browsed by white-tailed deer. Larval host plant to Henry's Elfin.

<i>Prunus mexicana</i> Mexican plum	Rosaceae - Rose Family	Tree, ornamental 15' - 35'	Showy, white perfect flowers, fragrant. Feb.-April	Plum, red-purple, Sept.-Oct	Full sun, part shade	Prefers river or creek bottoms, hardwood slopes & hillsides, & prairies.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X				Medium sized, single-trunked ornamental tree with broad crown and satiny silver bark with dark fissures. Excellent accent plant with heavenly fragrance when in bloom. Deciduous.	Early spring clouds of white flowers are wonderful nectar source, attracting bees, butterflies & diurnal moths. Gamebirds, songbirds & several species of mammals feast on the ripe plums. Larval host plant for Tiger swallowtail.
<i>Pyrus arbutifolia</i> Red chokecherry	Rosaceae - Rose Family	Tree, ornamental, small 8' - 12'	Showy, white to pink flowers March - May	Pome, Sept.-Oct	Full sun, part shade	Prefers wet woods & swamps of East Texas, Upper Texas Coast.	Sands, loams & clays. Mesic-hydric, seasonal poor drainage O.K.	X	X								Ornamental shrub to small tree with good fall color, turning bright red. Flowers are also quite showy in the spring. Deciduous.	The fruit is a highly valuable wildlife food in the fall & winter & is eaten by at least 13 species of birds including quail, pheasant, turkey, robins & cedar waxwings. Beautiful flowers attract several varieties of insects: bees, butterflies & moths.
<i>Styrax americana</i> Big-leaf snowbell	Styracaceae - Styrax Family	Tree, ornamental 12' - 15'	Showy, elegantly shaped white flowers May - June	Drupes, round & pea-sized, Sept.-Oct	Part shade, dappled shade	Prefers moist soils of the Big Thicket, in moist woods & river bottoms.	Sands, sandy loams, prefers acid soils. Mesic-hydric, poor drainage O.K.	X									Beautiful small white flowering ornamental tree, similar to Two-winged Silver-bell. Does well in Houston. Deciduous.	White flowers attract many kinds of insects, especially bees & butterflies. Fruit is especially favored by the wood duck. Also eaten by other species of birds.
<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> Sweetleaf	Symplocaceae - Sweetleaf Family	Tree, ornamental 30' - 50'	Showy clusters of yellow flowers, fragrant Feb. to May	Drupes, blue-gray to orange brown, Sept.-Oct	Full sun, part shade	Prefers low moist grounds of river bottoms & bay flats.	Sands & sandy loams, acid soils preferred. Mesic-hydric, poor drainage O.K.	X	X								Semi-evergreen small tree with slender upright branches & beautiful bright yellow flower clusters. Leaves are thick, leathery & lustrous. Persistent to evergreen.	Flowers attract many different kinds of insects. The leaves are sweet & greedily eaten by several herbivorous species of wildlife. Seeds from the fruit are eaten by Eastern phoebe & many other species of birds. Larval host plant of King's hairstreak.
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i> Rusty black-haw viburnum	Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family	Tree, ornamental, also a shrub 20' - 30'	Showy creamy-white clusters of flowers March - May	Berries, bluish-black (drupes), Sept.-Oct	Full sun, part shade	Prefers moist soils along streambanks, in open woods & thickets.	Sands, loams & clays, esp. limestone soils. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Small, single-trunked, ornamental with broad crown. Attractive as understory tree, also beautiful in the open. Leaves very glossy, turning red, mauve or orange in fall. Slow growing, staying shrub size for a long time. Deciduous.	Flowers are good nectar source for bees, butterflies & other insects. Fruits relished by several kinds of birds & small mammals. Robins, cedar waxwings, cardinals, bluebirds & mockingbirds love fruit, as do squirrels, opossum, raccoons & rabbits.

<i>Euonymus americanus</i> Strawberry Bush	Celastraceae Strawberry Bush Family	Shrub 4' - 6'	Small greenish purple flowers May - June	Capsule containing red fruits Sept. - Nov.	Part shade, dappled shade, shade	Prefers muddy moist soils along streams & woods.	Sands, sandy loams, clays & gumbos. Mesic-hydric, likes moisture. Poor drainage, O.K.	X	X											Airy understory shrub with bright red fruits held for a long time through the fall. It prefers the shade and tolerates poor drainage. Drier areas are O.K., if it stays in the shade. Good for Houston. Deciduous.	Several species of birds favor the red fruits, including Eastern bluebirds, mockingbirds, thrashers, sparrows & warblers. Small terrestrial mammals such as rabbits, squirrels & raccoons also enjoy eating the fruit.
<i>Itea virginica</i> Virginia sweetspire	Saxifragaceae Saxifrage Family	Shrub 4' - 6'	Showy white flowers in terminal raceme April - June	Capsule, two-parted with dark brown seeds, Sept.-Oct	Part shade, dappled shade	Prefers rich soils along swamps & streamsides.	Sands, loams, & clays, acid soils preferred. Hydric, poor drainage O.K.	X	X											Attractive understory shrub that does well in moist situations. Excellent erosion control. Flowers are showy, drooping white spires, & the leaves turn bright red in the fall. It is tolerant of poor drainage. Need lots of water in the summer. Deciduous.	The flowers are an excellent nectar source for various kinds of insects. Shrub provides good cover for small animals.
<i>Lantana horrida</i> Lantana	Verbenaceae Vervain Family	Shrub 3' - 6'	Showy yellow & orange heads made up of tiny florets. May to December (first frost)	Berries, green then dark blue-black Sept. - Nov.	Full sun, part shade	Occurs in fields, thickets, swamps, rich sandy woods, scrub & gravelly hills.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic to xeric.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						This showy shrub is planted has a long, profuse blooming season. Though not a native of Texas, it is planted almost throughout the state. It loves the hot weather. It's good to prune it back to the ground each winter. Deciduous.	Colorful, long-blooming flowers attract both butterflies and hummingbirds throughout the season. Northern cardinals and other species of birds eat the ripe fruit. Fairly deer resistant. Larval host plant of the Painted Lady.
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i> Sweetbells Leucothoe (Fetter-bush)	Ericaceae Heath Family	Shrub 3' - 12'	Showy racemes of pinkish urn-shaped flowers, all facing downward April - June	Capsules with wingless seeds August - Sept.	Full sun	Prefers moist thickets & swamp forests, sunny lakeshores in East Texas, Upper Texas Coast.	Sands, sandy loams, loams & clays, acid soils preferred. Mesic-hydric.	X	X											Widely branching, erect shrub with racemes of pinkish white urn-shaped flowers. Leaves are simple, elliptic with finely toothed margins. Good understory tree for low woods & acid swamps. Quite ornamental. Persistent.	This attractive shrub is NOT browsed by white-tailed deer.

<i>Cocculus carolinus</i> Carolina moonseed	Menespermaeae Moonseed Family	Vine, climber to 15'	inconspicuous greenish flowers July.-Aug.	Conspicuous brilliant red berries (drupes), Sept.-Oct	Full, part shade	Prefers rich moist soils of woods & thickets	Sands, loams & clays. Tolerates gumbo soils of Houston. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X				Relatively fast growing, slender twining vine that prefers full sun & some kind of support. Leaves are attractively shaped and fruits are highly ornamental. Will grow over shrubs & small trees. Evergreen.	Dense clusters of brilliant red fruit are relished by bluebirds, mockingbirds, cardinals, robins, warblers & sparrows.
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> Carolina jessamine	Loganaceae Logania Family	Vine, climber to 50'	Showy yellow tubular flowers in clusters, fragrant January - April	Capsule, flattened, elliptical with numerous dull brown narrowly winged seeds, Sept.-Oct.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers woodlands in East Texas.	Sands, sandy loams, loams, clays. Mesic.	X	X	X							Highly ornamental climbing vine with opposite leaves and gorgeous yellow flowers. Sometimes forms rich carpets on the ground. Parts of this plant are poisonous. Often planted in areas where it is not native. Used as a screen or to cover walls. Evergreen.	Cascades of yellow flowers attract myriads of insects. Provides good cover and hiding places for small birds. Seeds are eaten by the bobwhite quail and leaves are eaten by the marsh rabbit.
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> Coral honeysuckle	Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family	Vine, climber to 40'	Showy orange red tubular flowers in clusters March - Dec.	Berries, red April - Jan.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers moist fertile soils of East Texas, woods & thickets.	Sands, loams & clays. Mesic-hydric, poor drainage O.K.	X	X	X	X	X					A beautiful everblooming vine that grows well & is well-behaved. Likes morning sun & afternoon dappled shade. Needs extra water when getting established, but not later. Persistent.	Ruby-throated and Black-chinned hummers are attracted to this vine spring, summer and fall, esp. during migration. Orioles also sip nectar, as do butterflies. Fruit-eating birds relish the succulent red berries in the fall. LHP of Spring Azure.
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> Virginia creeper	Vitaceae Grape Family	Vine, climber and ground cover	inconspicuous greenish flowers May - June	Berries, blue-black Sept. - Nov.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers rich soils of woodlands & thickets & rocky banks in eastern half of TX.	Sands, loams, clays. Tolerates gumbo soils. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X				Very attractive vine with lush green palmate leaves. Vigorous climber well able to cloak walls, columns, etc by fastening on to masonry. Also good ground cover. Striking red-orange fall color. Deciduous.	Many species of birds compete for the blue-black berries including woodpeckers, kingbirds, great-crested flycatchers, titmice, cardinals, mockingbirds, bluebirds, warblers & sparrows.
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i> May-pop	Passifloraceae Passionflower Family	Vine, climber to 6' and ground cover	Showy Pink-purple flower April - Sept.	Ovoid fruit with seeds. June - Oct.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Grows in old fields, along roadsides & streams & woodland edges in Eastern 1/3 of TX.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X					This healthy climber is graced with an unbelievable intricate & eye-catching flower. It uses its tendrils for climbing & is often found sprawling over the ground, thus serving as excellent ground cover. Dormant in winter.	These beautiful vines are larval food plants for the Zebra long-wing, Gulf Fritillary & Julia butterflies. Several species of birds dine on the ripened fruits.

<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> <i>v. littoralis</i> Little bluestem	Poaceae Grass Family	Grass 2' - 5'	Flowering spikelets blue-green to silvery gold August - Dec.	Seeds Sept. - Dec.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers woods openings, rocky slopes of pastures & rangeland, along forest borders and prairies throughout Texas.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Most wide-ranging bunchgrass, a dominant of the tallgrass prairie. Tolerant of a wide variety of moisture & drought. A symphony of beautiful color changes through the year from blue-green to coppery gold in the fall. Warm-season perennial bunch grass.	Provides fairly good grazing for wildlife. Good cover grass, grass parts provide denning & nesting material for birds & mammals. Larval host plant for Dusted skipper, Delaware skipper, Dixie skipper, Cross-line skipper & Cobweb skipper.
<i>Setaria geniculata</i> Knotroot bristlegrass	Poaceae Grass Family	Grass 2' - 3'	Flowering spikelets a greenish yellow. December	Seeds Dec.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers moist areas along streams & ditches & lake borders	Sands, loams & clays.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This perky grass is the most widespread species of bristlegrass. Does well in a naturally moist rich swale area. Bunch grass. Flowers year-round.	Fairly good grazing for wildlife when green. Seed-eating birds and small mammals eat ripe seeds, especially the Painted Bunting. Stems, leaves used as nesting & denning material.
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> Indiangrass	Poaceae Grass Family	Grass 3' - 8'	Flowering spikelets a deep yellow Oct. - Nov.	Seeds Nov. - Dec.	Full sun, some shade O.K.	Prefers moist rich soils of tall-grass prairies of central & coastal TX	Sands, loams & clays. Likes calcareous soils. Mesic, likes moisture.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This gorgeous grass was major component of tallgrass prairie. Striking accent plant or member of pocket tallgrass prairie. Does well in a naturally moist rich swale area. Warm-season perennial bunch grass. Dormant in winter.	Fairly good grazing for wildlife when green. Seed-eating birds and small mammals eat ripe seeds. Stems, leaves used as nesting & denning material. Provides excellent protective cover for wildlife. Larval host plant of Pepper-and-salt skipper.
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i> Eastern gammagrass	Poaceae Grass Family	Grass 3' - 8'	Flowering spikelets yellow & cornlike July - Sept.	Seeds April - Nov.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers low moist grassland sites in eastern portion of state.	Sands, loams & clays. Mesic, likes extra moisture. Seasonal poor drainage O.K.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Forms very dense clump useful for buffer or areas of separation. Likes more shade & moisture than most grasses. Also dramatic accent plant. Can be grown in pure stands as pasture grass. Warm-season perennial bunch grass.	Good protective cover for small birds & mammals. Grass parts provide nesting & denning material. Provides very good forage for wildlife. Larval host plant to the Bunchgrass skipper.
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> Lance-leaf coreopsis	Asteraceae Sunflower Family	Wildflower 8" - 48"	Ray flowers splashy yellow, disk flowers deep yellow March - May	Achene, black, flattened & winged May - July	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers open flat woods & fields in East & South East Texas.	Sands, clays & loams. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Lance-leaf coreopsis is a very showy wildflower that grow very easily & provides a wonderful splash of color for the garden. It is widely found in cultivation. Perennial.	Growing in healthy clumps, these flowers provide abundant nectar for butterflies & bees. Ripe seed heads are eaten by several species of granivorous birds.

<i>Erythrina herbacea</i> Coralbean	Leguminosae - Legume Family	Wildflower 6' - 15'	Showy coral red tubular flowers May - Dec.	Pods with poisonous red seeds Oct. to Dec.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers sandy woods on coastal plain, but will grow elsewhere.	sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X									Striking shrubby wildflower dies back in winter like a perennial in all areas but south Texas. Flamboyant summer flowers are highly ornamental. Seeds are also attractive, though extremely poisonous. Perennial.	Elegant tubular flowers have copious nectar & are highly attractive to the Ruby-throated hummingbird. Seeds, though highly appealing visually, are poisonous and not eaten by wildlife.
<i>Herbertia lahue</i> Herbertia	Iridaceae Iris Family	Wildflower 4' - 12'	Showy purple flowers March - May	Capsules with seeds May - July	Full sun, part shade	Prefers open grasslands & meadows	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X				X							Pretty, delicately colored flowers growing from a roundish bulb usually forming large colonies. When in large numbers if forms areas of solid blue. Perennial.	Bees are attracted to these delicate lavender flowers.
<i>Hymenocallis lirioides</i> Spider lily	Amaryllidaceae Amaryllis Family	Wildflower 1' - 2'	Showy white flowers with long narrow petal-like segments, fragrant May - July	Capsule, tripartite July - Sept.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers periodically inundated bottomlands, marshes, along stream banks or in ditches in various soils	Sands, loams & clays, acid or calcareous. Poor drainage O.K. Even tolerates standing water.	X	X	X										Very striking white flower, each blossom about 7" across. Flowers are very fragrant. Flowers often grow in clumps. Very good plant for a bog garden. Grows well in Houston gumbo. Perennial.	Several varieties of insects are attracted to these very fragrant flowers.
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal flower	Campanulaceae Campanula Family	Wildflower 6" - 6'	Showy red tubular flowers, fragrant May - Oct.	Capsules with seeds June - Nov.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers moist soils in open places along streams, meadows & along roadsides; also about ponds & springs, & near swamps where the shade is not too dense.	Sands, loams, clays & limestone based soils. Moist soils, poor drainage O.K.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Cardinal flower cannot be equalled for sheer visual impact, planted in dense stands in a shady part of the garden. In peak bloom they create an incredible spectacle. Bright scarlet flowers are clustered on racemes as long as 18". Perennial.	Cardinal flower is a premiere hummingbird plant and will not fail to draw in any Ruby-throats passing through your area.
<i>Malvastrum drummondii</i> Turk's cap	Malvaceae - Mallow Family	Wildflower 4' - 9'	Showy red flowers May - Nov.	Berry-like fruit, red, flattened August - Sept.	Part shade, dappled shade, shade	Prefers moist woodlands, wood margins, streamsides, river edges in shady conditions. Low grounds.	Sands, loams & clays. Likes limestone soils, tolerates gumbo. Hydric-mesic, likes moisture.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						A good ornamental for shady situations. Forms colonies in shady spots. Serves as good ground cover. Best pruned back after 2 years. Perennial.	Attractive red flowers are very popular with hummingbirds. Butterflies, diurnal moths & other insects are also attracted to the flowers. The bland fruit is eaten by several species of birds & small mammals.

<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> Indian blanket	Asteraceae Sunflower	Wildflower 1'	Showy yellow & red daisy-like flowers March - Oct.	Achenes May - Nov.	Full sun, part shade	Prefers open grassy areas, prairies, meadows, also disturbed areas in a variety of soils	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic-xeric.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This is a marvelously easy wildflower to grow & it comes in various coloration patters from mainly yellow to mostly reddish. Blooms most of the season from spring to late fall & provides lots of color to a wildflower meadow. Annual.	Indian blanket attracts bees, butterflies & several other varieties of small insects who forage on the nectar. Ripe seed heads are favorites with many species of seed-eating passerines like the Painted Bunting.
<i>Lupinus texensis</i> Texas bluebonnet	Leguminosae Legume Family	Wildflower 8" - 16"	Showy blue and white pea-like flowers in racemes, fragrant March - May	Legume May - July	Full sun, a little shade O.K.	Prefers open fields, meadows & prairies, also roadside areas throughout much of the state from Corpus Christi to Abilene.	Sands, loams, clays & limestone soils; really likes calcareous soils. Well-drained, mesic-xeric.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Our state flower, this Texas endemic cloaks meadows, prairies & roadsides come spring in an ocean of blue. An incredible sight that dazzles all newcomers to the state. Bluebonnets take a little work to get established and depend on fall rains. Annual.	Bluebonnets are attended by bees & other insects who forage on the nectar & pollinate the plants. Plants let the bees know a particular flower has been pollinated by turning from white to dark red at the center of the banner. LHP of hairstreaks & elfins.
<i>Phacelia patuliflora</i> Purple phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae Waterleaf Family	Wildflower 10" - 12"	Showy purple & white flowers Feb. to May	Capsule with seeds May - July	Full sun, part shade	Prefers sandy soils in fields, prairies, openings & edges of woods, also along stream banks in Southeast, South Central and Coastal Texas.	Sands & sandy loams. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X								This attractive low growing wildflower grows in clumps. Flower color varies from lavender to purplish-violet. They are an attractive addition to any garden. Annual.	Bees & butterflies are highly attracted to these flowers.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Brown-eyed Susan	Asteraceae Sunflower Family	Wildflower 1' - 2'	Showy yellow ray flowers with dark brown centers May - Sept.	Achenes July - Nov.	Full sun, part shade, dappled shade	Prefers open prairies, grasslands & woodland meadows in the eastern two-thirds of the state.	Sands, loams & clays. Well-drained, mesic.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Black-eyed Susans provide a lush splash of color in your meadow garden or pocket prairie. It does especially well if the rains are good or with a little extra watering. It will grow well in both partially shady areas & the sun. Annual.	Bees, butterflies & many other kinds of insects forage for nectar from these flowers all summer. In the fall when the flowers have good to seed, numerous seed-eating birds forage on the ripe achenes.