

## Recommended Valley Shrubs Part 1

### **Trecul's Yucca or Palma pita (*Yucca treculeana*)**

Flowers: Creamy-white, very showy clusters 1.5 to 2 ft. high, late winter to early spring at top of plant.

Leaves: Evergreen, narrow 1.5 ft long, sharp-pointed tips.

Growth: Fast, 1 ft. per year, height 25 ft.

Sun: Full to partial shade.

Soil: Many types, well-drained, drought tolerant

Note: Wildlife: birds, butterflies, deer and javalinas have many uses of this plant.

### **Mexican Trixis or Hierba del Aire (*Trixis inula*)**

Flowers: Bright-yellow, nearly 1 inch wide, much of the year.

Leaves: 4 inches long, green, no spines or claws.

Growth: Medium, 3 to 6 ft.

Sun: Shade.

Soil: Loamy, well-drained, drought-tolerant.

Note: Very nice attractive shrub.

### **Mexican Caesalpinia or Retamilla (*Caesalpinia mexicana*)**

Flowers: Many, bright-yellow, rounded clusters, much of the year.

Leaves: Dull-green leaflets, pale underneath, no spines or claws.

Growth: Fast, to 30 ft. usually half that.

Sun: Adapts to full sun.

Soil: Many types.

Note: One of the most popular native shrubs for landscaping.

### **Desert Yaupon or Capul (*Schaefferia cuneifolia*)**

Fruit: Showy orange to bright-red, 1/4 inch wide, late fall through winter.

Leaves: Small pale-green clusters that fall off during drought, no thorns.

Growth: Slow, to 6 ft. usually 2 to 4 ft.

Sun: Full.

Soil: Many types, well drained, low water use.

Note: Makes an excellent tightly trimmed hedge.

### **Low Croton or Salvia (*Croton humilis*)**

Flowers: White, long drooping clusters, all year especially after rains.

Leaves: Green, 3 inches long, no spines or claws.

Growth: Slow, to 3 ft. rarely to 7 ft.

Sun: Shade.

Soil: Any kind of sandy soil.

Note: Attractive to human eye, hungry butterflies and seed-eating birds.

### **Torrey's Croton or Salvia (*Croton incanus*)**

Flowers: Whitish-green, clustered at leaf base near branch tips, all year.

Leaves: 2.5 inches long, pale-green above gray-green beneath.  
Growth: Medium, to over 6 ft.  
Sun: Partial shade to full sun.  
Soil: Clay sand, gravel, caliche.  
Note: A very open, straight-branched shrub, no spines or claws.

### **Texas Baby-Bonnets (*Coursetia axillaris*)**

Flowers: Pale-pink to white clusters over entire plant in March.  
Leaves: Dull-green leaflets, no spines or claws.  
Growth: Fast, 5 to 7 ft. in height.  
Sun: Partial shade to full sun.  
Soil: Loam, clay, caliche.  
Note: A rare plant, makes a beautiful full hedge.

### **Texas Kidneywood or Vara Dulce (*Eysenhardtia texana*)**

Flowers: White, fragrant, elongated showy clusters at branch ends, all year.  
Leaves: Dull-green leaflets, distinctive aroma, no spines or claws.  
Growth: Fast, 6 to 12 ft. in height.  
Sun: Full sun to light shade.  
Soil: Sandy to caliche, drought tolerant  
Note: Attractive to humans as well as birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

### **Coral Bean or Colorin (*Erythrina herbacea*)**

Flowers: Large, scarlet-red clusters at branch tips, in late winter-early spring.  
Leaves: 3-leaflet clusters 3 inches long, claws on branches and trunk.  
Growth: Medium, 6 to 12 ft. can get to 25 ft.  
Sun: Full sun to light shade.  
Soil: Loamy or sandy, low water use.  
Note: An extremely attractive shrub, careful placement to avoid thorns.  
Beans are scarlet-red and very toxic.

### **Yellow Sophora or Tambalisa (*Sophora tomentosa*)**

Flowers: Elongated, showy bright-yellow clusters, spring to fall.  
Leaves: Grayish-green, soft, velvety leaflets.  
Growth: Medium, 3 to 6 ft. in height.  
Sun: Full.  
Soil: Sandy, low water use.  
Note: Beautiful, short, rounded shrub with long showy seed pods.

### **Brush-Holly or Coronillo (*Xylosma flexuosa*)**

Fruit: Female plant, loaded with clusters of bright-red berries throughout year.  
Leaves: Evergreen, shiny, oval, dark on top and pale underneath.  
Growth: Slow to medium, 5 to 10 ft in height, can get to 25 ft.  
Sun: Full sun to shade.  
Soil: Many kinds, low water use, drought-tolerant.

Note: Fruit for birds. Plant has single, slender, straight thorns.

**Shrubby Blue Sage or Mejorana (*Salvia ballotiflora*)**

Flowers: Light to deep-blue 1/2 inch long in clusters over entire plant anytime of year.

Leaves: Oval, light-green, 1.5 inches long, very aromatic when crushed.

Growth: Fast, 5 to 8 ft., no spines or claws.

Sun: Full sun to partial shade.

Soil: Well drained gravel, sandy, sandy loam, caliche, drought-tolerant.

Note: Very attractive to humans and butterflies.

(Information source: Native Shrubs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification. Native Plant Project, PO1433, Edinburg, TX)

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