



Native and Adapted Plants for North Texas



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Native and Adapted Plants for North Texas

Native and adapted plants are the ideal choice for an aesthetically pleasing water efficient landscape. Whether you are interested in a well-manicured look, or a more naturalistic landscape design, there are a number of plants with various structures, textures, and colors to meet your needs and help you save precious time and money.



Benefits of Native & Adapted Plants

Native and better-adapted plants in home and business landscapes serve as environmentally sustainable assets that are usually labor efficient compared with resource intensive varieties. Some of the characteristics leading more Texans to incorporate native and adapted varieties include:

- Drought tolerance
- Heat tolerance
- Water efficiency
- Typically low fertilizer requirements
- Typically low pesticide requirements

What do you mean by Native and Adapted?

Native plants are hardy, having evolved in our (sometimes) harsh and unpredictable climate. They thrive on the soils that occur here and on the specific nutrients those soils provide. Native plants also tend to be more resistant to pest pressures of native insects and diseases common to North Texas. A plant might be native to:

- Texas
- North Texas
- Your County
- Your City

Adapted plants are also hardy but have been introduced to Texas landscapes through the horticulture industry. Most often, they originate from areas with similar soil types, climates and /or hardiness zones.

Top 100 List

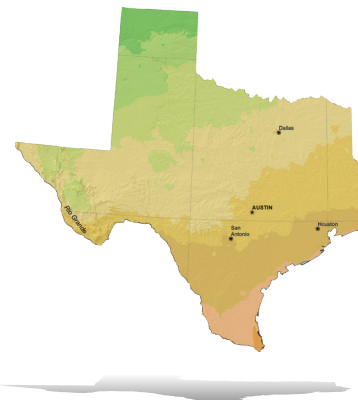
Flip to the back of your booklet for a list of our 100 favorite native and adapted plants for North Texas!

Remember, even though a plant is native to Texas, it is important to make sure it is well adapted to our area. i.e. A plant Native to Corpus Christi may not feel so at home in Dallas.

There are also many plants available that have native parents, but have been bred for improved ornamental characteristics.

Texas Plant Hardiness Zones

Adapted from USDA national plant hardiness zone map



Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-5 to 0	6b	-20.6 to -17.8
0 to 5	7a	-17.8 to -15
5 to 10	7b	-15 to -12.2
10 to 15	8a	-12.2 to -9.4
15 to 20	8b	-9.4 to -6.7
20 to 25	9a	-6.7 to -3.9
25 to 30	9b	-3.9 to -1.1
30 to 35	10a	-1.1 to 1.7

Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature 1976-2005

North Texas Zone 8a

Avg. Low Temp. 10-15 °F
Record Low -8°F 1980
Record High 113°F 1980
Avg. First Freeze Nov. 22
Avg. Last Freeze March 13
Avg. Yearly Rainfall 40.55"
 (Can range from 20"-50")

Common Soils Poor draining clays & lay loams, mostly alkaline, pH 7.5 to 7.8

Sandy loams and sandy soils can also be present.

Before you Plant: Soil Preparation, Amendments



A number of amendments can be added to your soil to ensure the richest growing environment for your plants. Soil amendments can improve a number of planting bed characteristics like drainage, soil fertility and pH levels. Two of the most common and helpful amendments for improving North Texas soils are compost and expanded shale.

Compost is a nutrient rich soil conditioner consisting of broken down organic material. Incorporate or top-dress ½” to 2” of compost into the soil to improve drainage while maintaining your soil’s water-holding capacity. Compost:

- Improves soil texture
- Contains macro and micronutrients
- Neutralizes pH
- Increases water holding capacity
- Reduces water evaporation

Expanded Shale is a porous, lightweight aggregate with the ability to improve drainage in clay soils and hold moisture at the same time. Expanded shale is most effective as incorporated into soil when establishing a new planting bed. Add up to 3” then till or mix in thoroughly to a depth of 6” with a shovel or spade.

Don't Guess, Soil Test!

One of the best methods for evaluating your soil is to collect and mail a soil sample to the Texas A&M Soil Testing Laboratory. Step-by-step instructions for submitting your sample are available at <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>. For as little as \$10 per sample, you will receive a detailed analysis of your soil and recommendations on how you can improve soil fertility.

soiltesting.tamu.edu

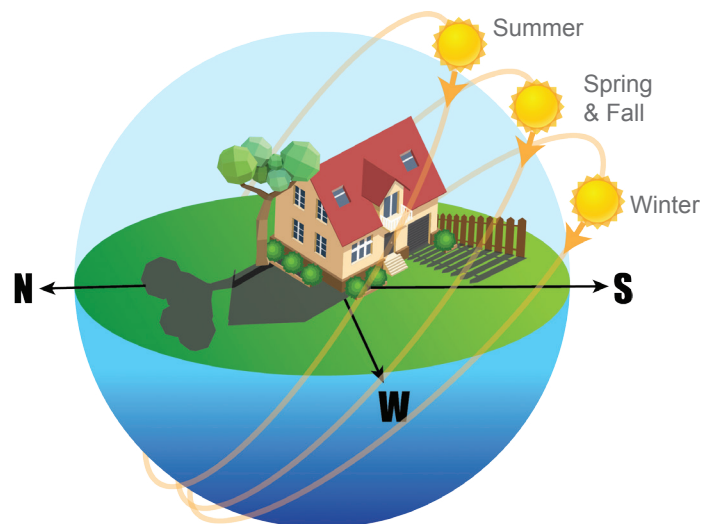
Soiltesting.tamu.edu is your one-stop shop for everything you need to get your soil sample submitted to Texas A&M AgriLife scientists for testing.

Planting

Spacing and Placement: “Right Plant, Right place”

A healthy native or adapted plant is a valuable asset, but to ensure the best success, it needs to be planted properly and in the right place, depending on its specific requirements. Read your plant’s tag and pay close attention to its hardiness zone, light requirements, size and spacing. Pay special attention to sunlight obstructions such as trees, buildings, fences and other plants in your landscape, and consider how shade conditions change with the sun’s position at different times of the year.

The sun’s position in the sky at noon during in each season



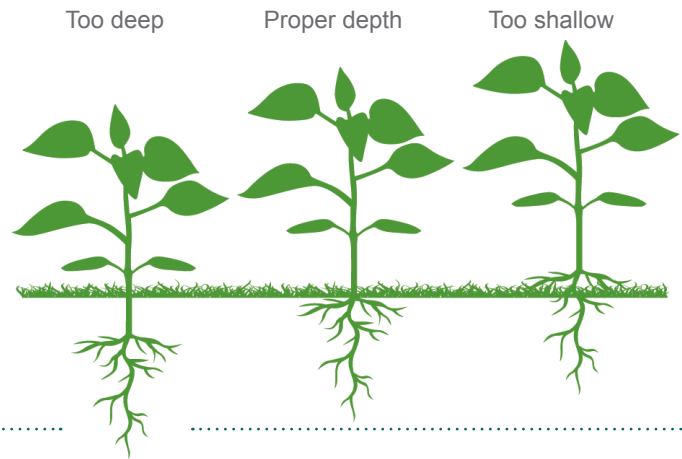
Proper Planting

Whether you're planting a native or adapted tree, shrub, or herbaceous perennial, it is key to make the transition from the nursery to your landscape as easy as possible and to employ the best planting practices to ensure a long, healthy life for your plant.

Planting Width should be 2 to 3 times as wide as root mass.

Planting Depth should be no deeper than root mass.

Don't break the root ball! Unwrap circling or girdling roots.



Planting a Tree

Avoid planting your tree in the hottest summer months. For best results, plant when the tree is dormant.

Be sure to remove any twine, tape or tags from your tree.

The top of the tree's root mass should be at or slightly above the existing grade (dotted line.)

Only stake your tree for stabilization in windy or high traffic areas. Secure with wide, flexible material.

Mulch between 2" and 4" deep but be sure to leave a 1" to 2" clearance between the tree trunk and your mulch.

The root flare at the base of your tree should be visible once planted.

Backfill with native soil from the new hole.

Your hole should be 2-3 times the width of your root ball.

Carefully remove containers, wrappings, wires and ties from root mass before planting. Unwrap any circling roots.

Make sure your root mass is sitting on firm, undisturbed soil at the bottom of your hole.

Mulching



Applying mulch around your planted areas is crucial to a successful garden. A number of natural materials work well as mulch. Hardwood, cedar, cypress and pine straw mulches are all strong options. Water University recommends between 2" and 4" of mulch for most applications. Be sure to taper off near plant bases to avoid fungal problems and other pest issues.

The benefits of mulching are many; they include:

- Increased water absorbing capacity
- Increased water holding capacity
- Reduced water evaporation
- Reduced erosion
- Weed control
- Soil temperature moderation
- Increased soil nutrition as mulch breaks down

Maintenance

Proper maintenance is one of the most important components of a beautiful and healthy, water efficient landscape. A good design is the first step along your road to success. It is important to design your landscape in a way that does not exceed your maintenance capabilities. A well designed landscape filled with native and adapted plants, trees, shrubs and turfgrasses will provide you with lots of enjoyment and will require minimal need for upkeep labor throughout the year.

WaterUniversity.TAMU.edu



Visit our searchable “Plants of North Texas” database for information on the care and characteristics of more than 200 North Texas plants, including Texas A&M AgriLife Water University’s top 100 list, found on the back cover of this booklet.

Landscape Rule of Thirds



When designing your landscape, utilize the “rule of thirds” by planting 1/3 drought tolerant turfgrass, 1/3 native and adapted planting beds and 1/3 pervious hardscape. This will give your landscape more visual appeal, usable space and a reduction in water use requirements.



Irrigation



Drip, multi-stream rotor sprinkler and soaker hoses help save water, money and, if maintained properly, can be an incredible asset. Adjust controllers as needed to avoid over watering and monitor your system regularly to check for leaks.

Mowing



Remove no more than 1/3 of the length of your lawn (leaf blade) each time you mow. This will help keep your turfgrass healthy. Remember, a big lawn translates to more mowing, so follow the landscaping rule of thirds. Always use your clippings as mulch. **Don't bag it! Mulch it!**

Mulching



Maintain 2" - 4" of mulch by adding new mulch annually as needed. This will help you save water and control weeds in your native and adapted planting bed. Keep in mind the array of other benefits your mulch will bring as it breaks down and enriches the existing soil.

Pruning



Remove dead material from your plants as needed. This will make way for lush new growth and also help you to maintain the shape of your trees and shrubs for aesthetic appeal.

Water University's Top 100 Native and Adapted Plants for North Texas

Native and Adapted Plant Characteristics

Native and Adapted Plants are

- Drought Tolerant
- Heat Tolerant

And they typically require

- Less Water
- Less Fertilizer
- Fewer Pesticides

Shade Trees

Shantung Maple
Eldarica Pine
Red Oak
Bur Oak
Chinquapin Oak
Live Oak
Cedar Elm
Lacebark Elm

Ornamental Trees

Red Buckeye
Redbud-Many Varieties
Desert Willow
Smoketree
Possumhaw Holly
Yaupon Holly
Wichita Blue Juniper
Deciduous Magnolia
Wax Myrtle
Cherry Laurel
Eve's Necklace
Texas Mountain Laurel
Vitex

Turfgrass

Bermuda
St. Augustine
Zoysia
Buffalo

Palms

Dwarf Palmetto
Windmill Palm

Yuccas/Cacti

Soft Leaf Yuccas
Red Yucca
Color Guard Yucca

Perennials

Flame Acanthus
Texas Gold Columbine
Damianita
Coreopsis
Cone Flower
Mist Flower
Gaura
Texas Star Hibiscus
Anne Marie Lantana
Texas Lantana
New Gold Lantana
Turk's Cap
Blackfoot Daisy
Rock Rose
Jerusalem Sage
Garden Phlox
Rudbeckia
Henry Duelberg Mealycup Sage
Black and Blue Salvia
Mexican Bush Sage
Lyre Leaf Sage
Hot Lips Salvia
Skullcap
Lamb's Ear
Fall Aster
Society Garlic
Zexmenia

Groundcovers

Horse Herb
Snake Herb
Purple Wintercreeper
Frog Fruit
Gray Santolina

Ferns

Wavy Cloak Fern
Holly Fern
Southern Wood Fern

Vines

Cross Vine
Coral Honeysuckle
Chinese Wisteria

Ornamental Grasses

Berkeley Sedge
Inland Sea Oats
Maiden Grass
Zebra Grass
Gulf Muhly
White Cloud Muhly
Mexican Feather Grass
Dwarf Hameln Grass
Moudry Grass
Little Bluestem
Indiangrass

Shrubs

Glossy Abelia
Kaleidoscope Abelia
Rose Creek Abelia
Butterfly Bush
Beauty Berry
False Aralia
Althea/Rose of Sharon
Oakleaf Hydrangea
St. John's Wort
Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Andorra Juniper
Texas Sage
Dwarf Wax Myrtle
Rosemary
Autumn sage
Bridal Wreath Spirea
Anthony Waterer Spirea
Limemound Spirea
Bush Germander
Eastern Snowball Viburnum
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum



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