



# NATURAL BEAUTIES



A guide to native, adapted and drought-tolerant plants  
that thrive in Dallas with minimal watering

*What are native and  
drought-tolerant  
plants and why  
should you use them  
in your landscape?*



*Gaillardia and Monarda*

## *They require less water than foreign plants*

It just makes sense. There are many *native* plants in North Central Texas — that is, plants that originate or grow naturally without human intervention that can be used in your landscape. Countless other plants originally found in other parts of the nation or world have *adapted* to thrive in this region. Native, adapted and drought-tolerant plants are more likely to survive and thrive in North Central Texas than plants from other regions or countries where the climate and average rainfall is much different. By selecting native, adapted or drought-tolerant plants for your landscape, you'll water less and save more — water and money.

## *They require little maintenance*

Consider these facts: Native and drought-tolerant plants are naturally disease and pest resistant; they require little or no fertilizer; and they retain their beauty in a drought.

If you have ever dreamed of spending less time doing yard work and more time doing what you want, plant native and drought-tolerant plants around your home.

## *They're hardy and beautiful*

Some people think that water conserving landscapes won't be as pretty as a landscape that demands lots of water. But nothing could be further from the truth. Texas native, adapted and drought tolerant plants come in all shapes, sizes, colors and heights. With a little planning, you can create a lush, colorful landscape that is water-efficient and very low maintenance.



*Yarrow*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS



|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| <i>WHAT IS XERISCAPE?</i> ..... | 4  |
| <i>KEY</i> .....                | 6  |
| <i>TREES</i> .....              | 7  |
| <i>SHRUBS</i> .....             | 10 |
| <i>GROUNDCOVERS</i> .....       | 13 |
| <i>GRASSES</i> .....            | 14 |
| <i>VINES</i> .....              | 15 |
| <i>FLOWERS</i> .....            | 16 |
| <i>SPECIAL THANKS</i> .....     | 20 |



## WHAT IS XERISCAPE?



Xeriscape is quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment. Using seven common-sense principles, you can create a lush, beautiful landscape that saves time, money and energy and prevents water pollution and water waste.

**1 Start with a plan.** Consider soil type, drainage, water availability and views. Consider how the space will be used — for play, entertaining, gardening, storage, etc. Plan areas for different amounts of water — hand water, frequent water, occasional water and natural rainfall. Develop a plan that can be installed in phases as your budget and time permit.

**2 Analyze and improve the soil.** To have your soil tested, check with the County Extension Office or your local nursery. Most soil will benefit from adding organic matter such as compost. This will improve drainage, moisture penetration and the capacity of the soil to hold water.

**3 Use practical turf areas.** Grass usually needs more water than any other part of the landscape. Think about how you will use the area and if grass is the best choice for that area. It may be, but ground covers, shrubs, a deck or a patio may work better in some cases.

**4 Select appropriate plants.** As much as possible, use native or drought-tolerant plants. There are hundreds of beautiful plants that naturally thrive on the amount of rainfall we receive in North Texas, so they rarely need additional water once they are established. But if your favorite plant is a water guzzler, go ahead and use it. Just place it with other water-loving plants.

**5 Water efficiently to make every drop count.** Watch for signs that plants need water, and water only when it's necessary. When you do water, water deeply. This will save water and help plants develop healthier root systems, making them more likely to survive hot summers and cold winters. Water early in the morning when the sun is low and the wind is calmer. The most efficient hose-end sprinklers throw large drops of water close to the ground. When you use misting sprinklers or sprinklers that throw water high into the air, the water often evaporates before it hits the ground. Soaker hoses are inexpensive, easy to install and ideal for planting beds. Drip irrigation applies water slowly to the soil directly surrounding plant roots.

**6 Use organic mulches to conserve water and slow weed growth.** Mulches reduce soil water loss and erosion. Some common organic mulches include pine bark, shredded cypress, pecan hulls, cotton seed hulls, composted leaves, shredded cedar and shredded landscape clippings.

**7 Maintain appropriately.** Xeriscape landscapes need less maintenance than traditional landscapes. But a properly maintained yard is hardier and better able to withstand drought, freezing and pest problems. Check woody plants, such as trees and shrubs, for pruning needs once a year. Dead, diseased or damaged wood can be removed any time. Flowering perennial plants may need frequent pruning to stimulate blooming and keep a neat appearance. Remove weeds so they don't compete with other plants for water. Raise the height of the lawn mower so grass blades shade the roots. Fertilize in moderation. Excessive fertilizer increases plants' water needs and can be washed away by rain, polluting our rivers and streams. Allow grass clippings to remain on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.

# NATURAL BEAUTIES

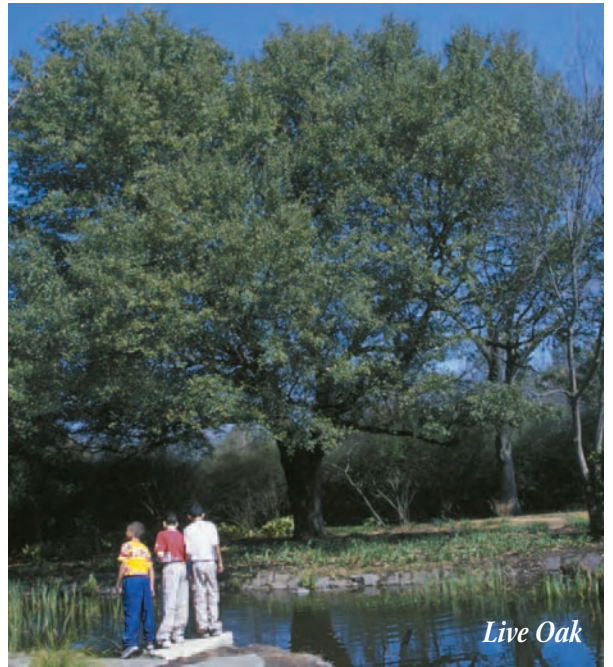


NATIVE, ADAPTED AND  
DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS  
THAT GIVE YOU MORE GREEN  
FOR YOUR GALLON.

*Check the following list for natural beauties  
to adorn your landscape.*

## KEY

- B Attracts birds or butterflies
- E Evergreen
- F Very showy flowers, fruits,  
fall foliage or fragrance
- FF Indicates more than one  
showy characteristic
- P Tolerates poor drainage
- S Shade-tolerant
- \* Check with your nursery  
for cold-hardy strains
- [ ] Indicates frequently but not always



*Live Oak*

# TREES



| NAME                | KEY   | COLOR  |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| Acacia, Wright      | BF    | White flowers  |
| Ash, Texas          | BFP   | Yellow to orange<br>fall foliage                                     |
| Buckeye, Mexican    | BFF   | Yellow fall foliage<br>rose pink flowers                             |
| Buckthorn, Carolina | BFPS  | Yellow fall foliage<br>red fruit                                     |
| Cedar, Eastern Red  | BEF   | Blue fruit (female only)   |
| Crape Myrtle*       | FF    | Red or yellow fall<br>foliage, red, white, pink<br>or purple flowers |
| Cypress, Arizona    | BE    | Gray foliage   |
| Desert Willow       | BF    | White to rose flowers  |
| Dogwood, Roughleaf  | BFFPS | Mauve fall foliage<br>white flowers                                  |

| NAME                            | KEY   | COLOR  |
|---------------------------------|-------|--|
| Elm, Cedar                      | BFP   | Yellow fall foliage                              |
| Elm, Lacebark<br>(Chinese Elm)  | F     | Cinnamon foliage                                 |
| Eve's Necklace                  | FFS   | Pink flowers,<br>black bead seed pods            |
| Holly, Possumhaw                | BFPS  | Red fruit<br>(female only -winter)               |
| Holly, Yaupon                   | BEFPS | Red berries (female only)                        |
| Juniper, Alligator              | BE    | Green foliage                                    |
| Juniper, Ashe                   | BEF   | Dark green foliage,<br>blue fruit (female only)  |
| Juniper, Blue Point             | F     | Blue-green foliage                               |
| Juniper, Wichita Blue           | F     | Grey-green foliage                               |
| Maple, Caddo<br>(from Oklahoma) | F     | Yellow to orange-red<br>fall foliage             |
| Maple, Shantung                 | F     | Red to orange-red<br>fall foliage                |
| Mesquite                        | B[F]  | Green foliage                                    |
| Myrtle, Wax                     | BEPS  | Olive green foliage,<br>blue fruit (female only) |
| Oak, Bigelow                    |       | Green foliage                                    |
| Oak, Bur                        |       | Green foliage                                    |
| Oak, Chinquapin                 |       | Green foliage                                    |
| Oak, Durrand                    | F     | Red fall foliage                                 |
| Oak, Escarpment Live            | E     | Green foliage                                    |
| Oak, Lacy                       | F     | Copper foliage<br>(spring and fall)              |
| Oak, * Live                     | BE    | Glossy green foliage                             |
| Oak, Shumard Red                | F     | Red fall foliage                                 |
| Oak, Texas Red                  | F     | Red fall foliage                                 |
| Pecan                           | B     | Green foliage                                    |
| Persimmon,<br>Common            | BF[S] | Orange fall foliage,<br>fragrant flowers,        |



| NAME                                  | KEY  | COLOR   |
|---------------------------------------|------|---|
|                                       |      | orange fruit  |
| Persimmon, Texas                      | B    | Orange fall foliage                                   |
| Pine, Eldarica<br>(Afghan or Mondell) | E    | Green foliage   |
| Pine, Japanese Black                  | E    | Green foliage   |
| Plum, Mexican                         | BFFS | White flowers,<br>pink fruit                          |
| Redbud,<br>Eastern-Texas hybrid       | BFS  | Yellow fall foliage,<br>rose flowers                  |
| Redbud, Mexican                       | BF   | Rose flowers  |
| Soapberry, Western                    | BFS  | Yellow fall foliage,<br>amber fruit,<br>white flowers |
| Smoke Tree,<br>American               | BFF  | Orange fall foliage,<br>pink flowers                  |
| Sumac,<br>Prairie Flameleaf           | BFF  | Red fall foliage,<br>white flowers                    |
| Viburnum,<br>Rusty Blackhaw           | BFFS | Mauve to red fall<br>foliage, white flowers           |
| Vitex*                                | BFS  | Blue, white or violet<br>flowers                      |



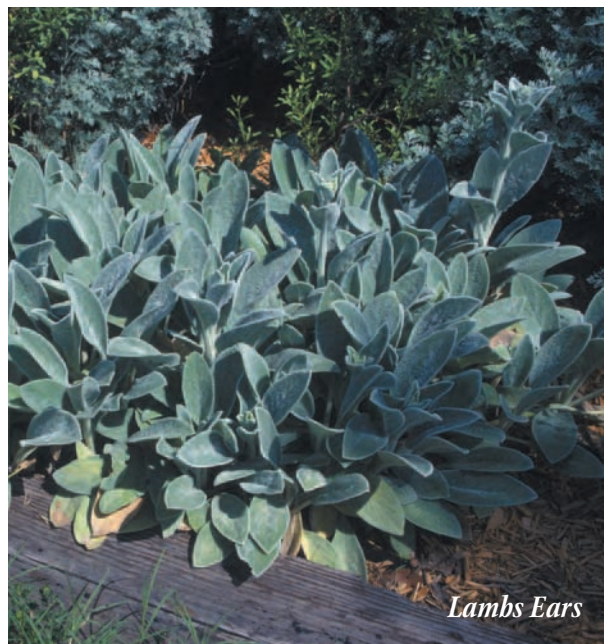
## SHRUBS



| NAME                  | KEY   | COLOR                           |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| Abelia                | BFS   | White, pink flowers             |
| Acanthus, Flame       | BF    | Orange flowers                  |
| Agarita               | BEFF  | Yellow flowers, red berries     |
| Althea                | BFS   | Pink, lavender or white flowers |
| American Beauty Berry | BFPS  | Purple fruit (fall and winter)  |
| Apache Plume          | B[E]F | White flowers, pink fruit       |
| Barberry, Red         | [S]   | Yellow flowers (all varieties)  |
| Buckeye, Red          | BF    | Red flowers                     |
| Buckeye, Texas        | BF    | White to yellow spring flowers  |
| Burning Bush, Dwarf   | F     | Red fall foliage                |

| NAME                               | KEY     | COLOR  |
|------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Coralbean                          | BF      | Red flowers  |
| Coralberry                         | BFS     | Pink fruit   |
| Crape Myrtle*, Dwarf and Miniature | FF      | Red or yellow fall foliage; red, white, pink or lavender flowers |
| Elaeagnus*                         | BEFS    | Silvery green foliage, fragrant flowers                          |
| Forsythia                          | FS      | Yellow flowers   |
| Holly, Foster                      | ES      | Red winter berries   |
| Holly, Nellie R. Stevens           | ES      | Red berries (fall and winter)                                    |
| Holly, Dwarf Yaupon                | ES      | Green foliage  |
| Hydrangea, Oak Leaf                | FF      | White flowers spring/summer, red to purple fall foliage          |
| Hypericum*                         | [E]FS   | Gold flowers   |
| Indigobush Amorpha                 | BFP     | Purple flowers   |
| Jasmine, Italian                   | BEF     | Yellow flowers   |
| Juniper, Blue Carpet               | E       | Blue-green foliage   |
| Mahonia* (Texas Barberry)          | BEF     | Pink fall foliage, yellow flowers                                |
| Mahonia, Leatherleaf               | EFFS    | Yellow flowers, blue fruit                                       |
| Mock Orange, Texas                 | F[S]    | White flowers  |
| Myrtle, Dwarf Wax                  | BEPS    | Olive green foliage, blue fruit (female only)                    |
| Nandina                            | BEF[P]S | Red winter foliage, red berries                                  |
| Photinia, Chinese                  | E       | Glossy green foliage   |
| Pomegranate                        | FF[S]   | Red orange flowers, yellow fall foliage                          |
| Quince, Flowering                  | F       | Pink, white flowers  |
| Roses, Antique (many varieties)    | B[E]FF  | Many flower colors, some colorful rosehips                       |

| NAME                             | KEY   | COLOR   |
|----------------------------------|-------|---|
| Rose,* Lady Banksia              | EF    | Yellow, white flowers   |
| Salvia, Greggii<br>(Autumn Sage) | BF[S] | White, pink or red<br>flowers                                       |
| Sotol                            | BEF   | Cream flowers   |
| Spirea, Bridal Wreath            | BF    | White flowers   |
| Sumac, Fragrant                  | BF[S] | Red to orange fall<br>foliage, yellow flowers                       |
| Sumac, Smooth                    | BFF   | Red fall foliage,<br>white flowers                                  |
| Sage, Texas (Cenizo)             | EF    | Silver to green-grey<br>foliage, violet, white<br>or purple flowers |
| Senna, Canyon*                   | F     | Yellow flowers  |
| White Bush<br>Honeysuckle        | BFS   | White flowers, red fruit  |
| Yucca, Arkansas                  | BEFS  | Blue-grey foliage,<br>white flowers                                 |
| Yucca, Red                       | BEFPS | Pink flowers  |
| Yucca, Soft Leaf                 | BEFS  | White flowers   |



## GROUNDCOVERS



| NAME                             | KEY   | COLOR                              |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Ajuga                            | [E]S  | Green to bronze foliage            |
| Artemesia                        | [E]   | Silver foliage                     |
| Fern, Wood                       | S     | Light green                        |
| Frogfruit                        | B[E]P | White flowers                      |
| Horseherb                        | [E]   | Yellow flowers                     |
| Ivy, Ground                      | EFS   | Green foliage                      |
| Jasmine,* Asian                  | E[S]  | Green foliage                      |
| Lamb's Ears                      | FF    | Grey leaves,<br>purple flowers     |
| Liriope<br>(Monkey, Mondo Grass) | EF    | Lavender, white or<br>pink flowers |
| Pigeonberry                      | BFFS  | Pink, white flowers,<br>red fruit  |
| Santolina,* Gray                 | F     | Yellow flowers                     |

| NAME              | KEY   | COLOR                          |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Santolina,* Green | F     | Yellow flowers                 |
| Sedum             | [E]FS | Many flower and foliage colors |
| Snake Herb        | EPS   | Lavender flowers               |
| Thrift            | FS    | Pink, rose, white flowers      |
| Violet, Wood      | BFS   | Purple, white flowers          |
| Vinca major       | [E]S  | Blue flowers                   |
| Vinca minor       | ES    | Blue flowers                   |
| Virginia Creeper  | BFPS  | Mauve fall foliage             |

## GRASSES



| NAME                     | KEY    | COLOR                     |
|--------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| Bluestem, Big            | BFP    | Green                     |
| Bluestem, Brushy         | BFP    | Green                     |
| Bluestem, Little (local) | BFF    | Blue-green                |
| Bluestem, Silver         | BF     | Green to silver spikelets |
| Bluestem, Splitbeard     | BF     | Copper                    |
| Buffalo Grass            |        | Green                     |
| Eastern Gama Grass       | PS     | Green                     |
| Inland Sea Oats          | BFPS   | Green                     |
| “Lometa” Indian Grass    | BFP    | Blue-green                |
| Muhly, Gulf              | B[E]FP | Green                     |
| Muhly, Lindheimer        | BFP    | Green                     |
| Muhly, Seep              | BPS    | Green                     |
| Sideoats Grama           | BF     | Green                     |
| Switchgrass              | B      | Green to gold spikelets   |



*Passion Vine*

## VINES



| NAME               | KEY       | COLOR              |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Carolina Jessamine | BEFP[S]   | Yellow flowers     |
| Crossvine          | BEFPS     | Orange flowers     |
| Honeysuckle, Coral | B[E]FP[S] | Red flowers        |
| Ivy, Boston        | FS        | Red fall foliage   |
| Passion Vine*      | BFPS      | Purple flowers     |
| Trumpet Vine       | BF        | Orange flowers     |
| Virginia Creeper   | BFPS      | Mauve fall foliage |



# FLOWERS



| NAME                       | KEY   | FLOWER COLOR       |
|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Balloon Flower             | BF    | Blue, white, pink  |
| Barbara's-buttons          | BF    | White              |
| Blackfoot Daisy            | BF    | White              |
| Bluebonnet                 | F     | Blue               |
| Blue-eyed Grass            | FS    | Blue               |
| Blue Flax                  | F     | Blue               |
| Bouncing Bet<br>(Soapwort) | F     | Pink, white        |
| Butterfly Weed             | BFS   | Reddish-orange     |
| Calylophus                 | F     | Yellow             |
| Coneflower                 | BF[S] | Rose-purple, white |
| Columbine, Yellow          | BEFS  | Yellow             |
| Columbine, Wild Red        | BEFS  | Red, yellow        |

|  |       |                                       |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Coreopsis  | BF[S] | Yellow, pink, burgundy                |
| Dalea, Black   | FP    | Purple                                |
| Dalea, Gregg's   |       | Silver blue-green foliage             |
| Daisy, Engelmann   | BF    | Yellow                                |
| Daisy, Oxeye   | BF    | White                                 |
| Daylily  | FS    | Many colors                           |
| Eryngo   | F     | Purple                                |
| Gaillardia<br>(Indian Blanket)                               | BF    | Red, yellow                           |
| Garlic, Society  | BFF   | Pink, white                           |
| Gaura  | BF    | Pink, white                           |
| Gayfeather   | BF    | Pink                                  |
| Gazania  | F     | Yellow, orange, red                   |
| Green-eyes   | F[S]  | Yellow                                |
| Horsemint  | BF    | Purple                                |
| Hymenoxys<br>(Four-nerve Daisy)                              | BF    | Yellow                                |
| Indian Paintbrush  | F     | Orange                                |
| Lantana  | BF    | Orange, yellow, pink, lavender, white |
| Lavender, Spanish  | BF    | Purple                                |
| Marigold, Sweet<br>(Mexican Mint Marigold or Tagetes Lucida) | BFF   | Yellow flowers, culinary herb         |
| Mexican Hat  | BF    | Yellow, maroon                        |
| Milkwort, White  | BF    | White                                 |
| Monarda<br>(Bergamot or Bee Balm)                            | BFP   | Pink, scarlet, purple                 |
| Moss Rose<br>(Portulaca or Purslane)                         | F     | Pink, white, violet, gold             |
| Obedient Plant, Fall   | FP[S] | Lavender                              |
| Onion, Prairie   | BF    | Pink                                  |
| Partridge Pea  | BFP   | Yellow                                |



*Balloon Flower*

| NAME                                  | KEY    | COLOR                  |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Pavonia                               | BF[S]  | Pink                   |
| Penstemon<br>(Wild Foxglove)          | BF     | Pink                   |
| Penstemon,<br>Gulf Coast              | BFP[S] | Lavender               |
| Phlox, Fragrant                       | BFS    | Lavender               |
| Phlox (Thrift)                        | B[E]F  | Pink, white, blue, red |
| Primrose,<br>Showy Evening            | BF     | Pink, white            |
| Rudbeckia hirta<br>(Black-eyed Susan) | F[S]   | Gold                   |
| Ruellia<br>(Mexican Petunia)          | BFS    | Lavender, pink, white  |
| Sage, Blue Queen                      | B      | Dark purple            |
| Sage, Cedar                           | B[E]FS | Red                    |

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| Sage, Engelmann                                     | BF      | Blue                                      |
| Sage, Mealy Blue                                    | BF      | Blue (p)                                  |
| Sage, Russian                                       | F       | Blue                                      |
| Sage, Tropical                                      | BFS     | Red, white, pink,<br>orange               |
| Senna, Two-leaved                                   | BF      | Yellow                                    |
| Shrubby Skullcap                                    | BF      | Purple, pink, white                       |
| Spiderwort  | FS      | Blue, purple                              |
| Spring Rain Lily                                    | [E]F[S] | White, pink, yellow<br>orange             |
| Sunflower,<br>Maximillian                           | BFP     | Yellow                                    |
| Turk's Cap  | BFPS    | Red                                       |
| Winecup   | BF      | Magenta                                   |
| Verbena,<br>Blue Princess                           | B[E]F   | Purple                                    |
| Verbena, Prairie                                    | B[E]F   | Purple                                    |
| Yarrow  | BFS     | Gold, rose pink, white                    |
| "Zebrina"<br>Malva Sylvestris<br>(French Hollyhock) | F       | White and purple<br>flowers (cover photo) |
| Zexmenia  | FS      | Gold                                      |

For additional information on gardening with native, drought tolerant or adapted plants or other conservation information, please go to the Water Conservation website at [www.savedallaswater.com](http://www.savedallaswater.com) or call 214/670-3155



## *Special thanks*

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City of Dallas

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*“It is best to let Nature alone just as far as possible, following her suggestions and helping her to carry out her plans by adjusting our own to them...”*

*The Craftsman* magazine, 1908