



NATURAL BEAUTIES



A guide to native and adapted 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

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 world have *adapted* to thrive in this region. Native or adapted 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 and adapted drought-tolerant plants for your landscape, you'll water less and save more – time, water and money.

They require little maintenance

Native or adapted drought-tolerant plants are naturally disease and pest resistant; they require little or no fertilizer; and once established can usually thrive with the average annual rainfall here in North Texas. During unusually dry periods they may need a little supplemental water – but much less than their more thirsty cousins.

If you'd rather spend less time watering, feeding and chemically controlling pests and disease in your landscape, plant native or adapted drought-tolerant plants.

They're hardy and beautiful

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



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WATER-WISE PRINCIPLES



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. Have your soil tested by the Cooperative Extension Office or your local nursery. Most soils 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 to determine if grass is the best choice. In many cases, ground-covers, shrubs, or a deck or patio may be a better option.

4 Select appropriate plants. As much as possible, use native or adapted drought-tolerant varieties. These beautiful plants naturally thrive on the rainfall we receive in North Texas, so they rarely need additional water once established.

If your favorite plant is a water guzzler, be sure to place it with other water-loving plants so you don't over water (and possibly drown!) your drought-tolerant plants.

5 Water efficiently to make every drop count. Watch for signs that plants need water. Sometimes plants droop in the afternoon because it is hot, but they aren't thirsty. Check them again in the morning before you water. Water deeply – this will help plants develop healthier root systems, making them more likely to survive hot summers and cold winters. Water early in the cool of the morning when there is little wind.

Use efficient sprinklers that throw large drops of water close to the ground. Misting sprinklers or sprinklers that throw water high into the air lose as much as 50% to evaporation or wind. 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. Mulches reduce soil water loss, prevent weeds and deter erosion. Some common organic mulches include pine bark, shredded cypress, composted leaves and shredded cedar. Apply mulch three to four inches deep for best results.

7 Maintain appropriately. Low maintenance doesn't mean no maintenance – a properly maintained landscape is more attractive and less likely to develop serious problems. Remove weeds promptly so they don't steal water or crowd your plants. Check trees and shrubs for pruning needs once a year, but remove any dead, diseased or damaged wood any time. Prune flowering perennials throughout the season to stimulate blooming and keep a neat appearance.

For turf areas – raise the height of the lawn mower so grass blades shade the roots. Fertilize carefully – excess fertilizer can be washed away by rain. The fertilizer ends up polluting our rivers and lakes. Allow grass clippings to remain on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.

NATURAL BEAUTIES

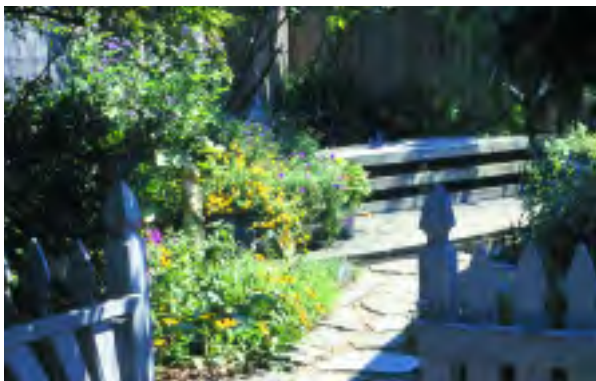


NATIVE AND ADAPTED DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS THAT GIVE YOU MORE GREEN FOR YOUR GALLON.

*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
Buckeye, Mexican	BFF	Yellow fall foliage rose pink flowers
Buckthorn, Carolina	BFPS	Yellow fall foliage red fruit
Cedar, Eastern Red	BEF	Blue fruit (female only)
Chitalpa	BF	Rose flowers
Crape Myrtle*	FF	Red or yellow fall foliage, red, white, pink or purple flowers
Cypress, Arizona	BE	Gray foliage
Desert Willow	BF	White to rose flowers
Dogwood, Roughleaf	BFFPS	Mauve fall foliage white flowers

NAME	KEY	COLOR
Elm, Cedar	BFP	Yellow fall foliage
Elm, Lacebark (Chinese Elm)	F	Cinnamon foliage
Eve's Necklace	FFS	Pink flowers, black bead seed pods
Holly, Possumhaw	BFPS	Red fruit (female only -winter)
Holly, Yaupon	BEFPS	Red berries (female only)
Juniper, Alligator	BE	Green foliage
Juniper, Ashe	BEF	Dark green foliage, blue fruit (female only)
Juniper, Blue Point	F	Blue-green foliage
Juniper, Wichita Blue	F	Grey-green foliage
Maple, Caddo (from Oklahoma)	F	Yellow to orange-red fall foliage
Maple, Shantung	F	Red to orange-red fall foliage
Mesquite	B[F]	Green foliage
Myrtle, Wax	BEPS	Olive green foliage, 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 (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, Common	BF[S]	Orange fall foliage, fragrant flowers, orange fruit



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

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
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
Rose, * Lady Banksia	EF	Yellow, white flowers
Salvia, Greggii	BF[S]	White, pink or red

NAME	KEY	COLOR
(Autumn Sage)		flowers
Sotol	BEF	Cream flowers
Spirea, Bridal Wreath	BF	White flowers
Sumac, Fragrant	BF[S]	Red to orange fall foliage, yellow flowers
Sumac, Smooth	BFF	Red fall foliage, white flowers
Sage, Texas (Cenizo)	EF	Silver to green-grey foliage, violet, white or purple flowers
Senna, Canyon* Arkansas	F BEFS	Yellow flowers Blue-grey foliage, white flowers
Yucca, Red	BEFPS	Pink flowers
Yucca, Soft Leaf	BEFS	White flowers



Texas Sage (Cenizo)



Lambs Ears

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
Lambs Ears	FF	Grey leaves, purple flowers
Liriope (Monkey)	EF	Lavender, white or pink flowers
Pigeonberry	BFFS	Pink, white flowers, red fruit
Purple Winter Creeper	EFS	Purple foliage in winter

NAME	KEY	COLOR
Santolina, * Gray	F	Yellow flowers
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

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
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 (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, Greggs		Silver blue-green foliage
Daisy, Engelmann	BF	Yellow
Daisy, Oxeye	BF	White
Daylily	FS	Many colors
Eryngo	F	Purple
Gaillardia (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 (Four-nerve Daisy)	BF	Yellow
Indian Paintbrush	F	Orange
Lantana	BF	Orange, yellow, pink, lavender, white
Lavender, Spanish	BF	Purple
Marigold, Sweet (Mexican Mint Marigold or Tagetes Lucida)	BFF	Yellow flowers, culinary herb
Mexican Hat	BF	Yellow, maroon
Milkwort, White	BF	White
Monarda (Bergamot or Bee Balm)	BFP	Pink, scarlet, purple
Moss Rose (Portulaca or Purslane)	F	Pink, white, violet, gold
Obedient Plant, Fall	FP[S]	Lavender
Onion, Prairie	BF	Pink
Partridge Pea	BFP	Yellow



NAME

KEY

COLOR

Pavonia	BF[S]	Pink
Penstemon (Wild Foxglove)	BF	Pink
Penstemon, Gulf Coast	BFP[S]	Lavender
Phlox, Fragrant	BFS	Lavender
Phlox (Thrift)	B[E]F	Pink, white, blue, red
Primrose, Showy Evening	BF	Pink, white
Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)	F[S]	Gold
Ruellia (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, 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 orange
Sunflower, Maximillian	BFP	Yellow
Turk's Cap	BFPS	Red
Winecup	BF	Magenta
Verbena, Blue Princess	B[E]F	Purple
Verbena, Prairie	B[E]F	Purple
Yarrow	BFS	Gold, rose pink, white
“Zebrina” Malva Sylvestris (French Hollyhock)	F	White and purple flowers (cover photo)
Zexmenia	FS	Gold

For additional information on gardening with native or adapted drought-tolerant plants or other conservation information, please visit our website at SaveDallasWater.com or call 214/670-3155.



Special thanks

*Special thanks to the following for providing
the information in this brochure:*

Bonnie Reese,
Beautiful Landscapes
www.beautifullandscapes.net

Bill Neiman,
Native American Seed Company
www.seedsource.com

Michael Parkey, ASLA,
Landscape Architect
www.michaelparkey.com

Sally Wasowski,
Landscape Designer
www.botanicalmissionaries.com

Randy Weston,
Weston Gardens
www.westongardens.com

Native Plant Society of Texas
www.npsot.org

Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center
at Dallas
www.dallas.tamu.edu

Texas Cooperative Extension, Dallas County
<http://dallas-tx.tamu.edu>

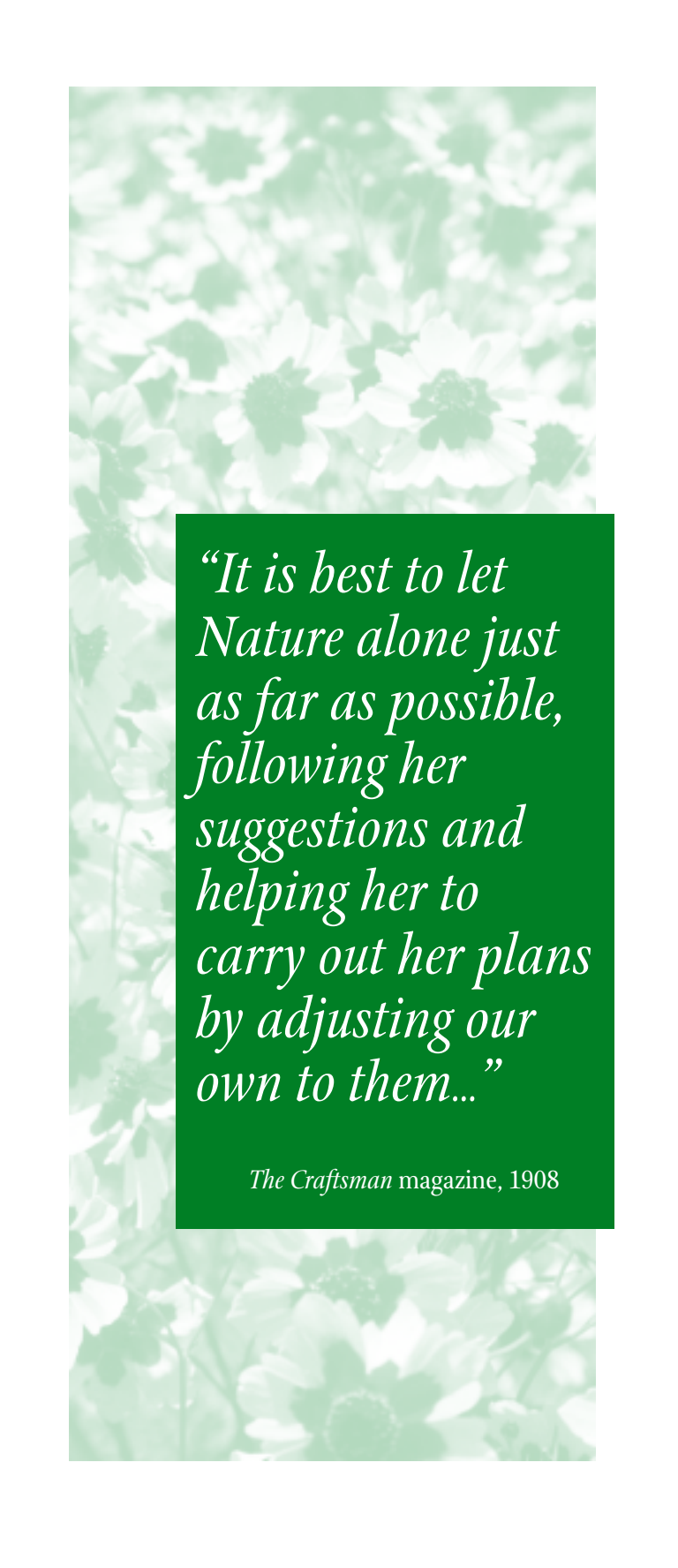
Texas Smartscape Program
(*North Central Texas Council of Governments*)
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City of Dallas

For additional copies of this brochure, contact:
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Publication No. 10/11-10



*“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