

Native Plants in Your Landscape

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Austin Chapter



Why Use Native Plants?

They are naturally adapted to our region –
(they've had thousands of years to do this!)

So, they:

- Are adapted to our soils & climate
- Naturally flourish and reseed
- Use much less water
- Don't require pesticide
- Need little to no fertilizer



Why Use Native Plants?

They are intimately connected to our local wildlife

So, they:

- Provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for mammals, birds, butterflies & many more



Why Use Native Plants?

They provide a unique “sense of place”

The idea being:

- Texas should look like Texas; central Texas like central Texas, etc.
- Natives help combat the monotony and “homogenization” of landscaping
- Natives help restore our native landscape



Non-natives are not adapted to our soils & climate



Non-native Azaleas

Thrive in moist, cool, shaded forest environments with highly acidic soils.

(And we live in a dry, hot, sunny region with alkaline soils!)

Natives are adapted to our soils & climate



Rock rose

Pavonia lasiopetala

Likes shallow, rocky,
well-drained,
limestone soils,
thrives in part-shade
on edge of woodlands

Flourishing and reseeding...



Non-native Geranium

May thrive and bloom in pots only; little to no seed production; unlikely to survive hard freezes



Four-Nerve Daisy
Tetranneuris scaposa

Likes shallow, well-drained soils; silvery perennial to 1 ft; blooms spring & summer; freely reseeds

Water use: many non-natives need lots of water!

These plants need almost DAILY watering to survive a Texas summer...



Begonia



Marigold



Petunia

Water: St. Augustine Lawns: Summer



- ❑ Require approx. 1" water per week, or 560 gallon/wk per 1000 sq ft lawn. (30-60% of all urban water use is for lawn watering)
- ❑ Require frequent (almost weekly) mowing
- ❑ Require fertilizers and pesticides; most disease prone of our turf grasses
- ❑ Do not like prolonged freezes

Water: Buffalo Grass Lawns: Summer



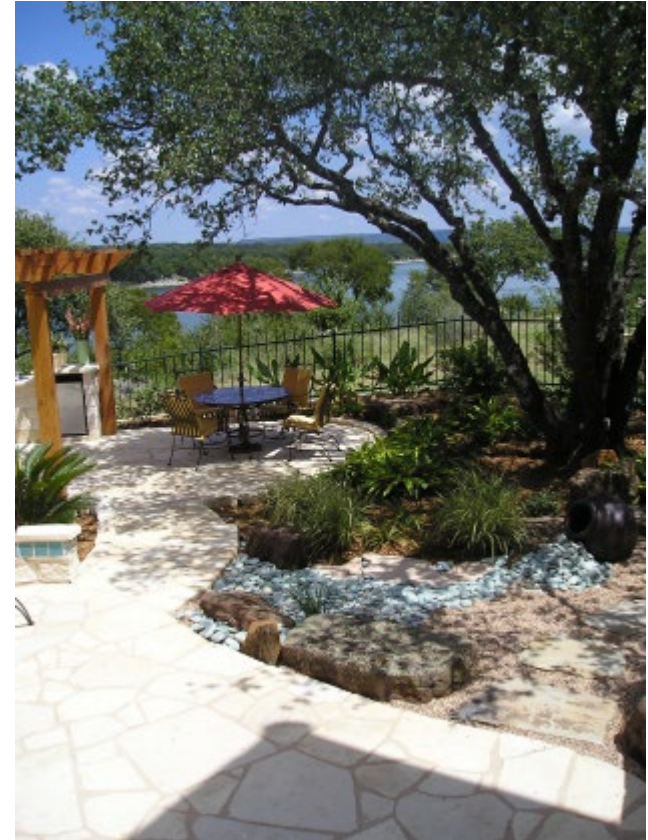
- ❑ Require no supplemental water
- ❑ Don't need mowing
- ❑ Don't need fertilizers and/or pesticides
- ❑ Are well adapted to freezes

Detour: There's more to a yard than grass...



- ▣ Divide up the yard: Think in broader terms than just unending "turf"

There's more to a yard than grass...



- ❑ Paths, walkways, gravel, stone... can take up large amounts of area traditionally covered with grass.

There's more to a yard than grass...



- ❑ Mulches, groundcovers, shrubs, perennials can function in a similar fashion, offering more variety, visual stimulation, & wildlife attractants.

Native plants don't need pesticides

- By and large native plants are adapted to the insects and pathogens of our region and, unless particularly stressed (drought, etc.), are usually able to fend for themselves with little damage.



Native plants don't need fertilizers

- Native plants are adapted to the (often harsh) conditions of our region (such as poor soils). They will frequently “freak out” if given unnaturally rich conditions.



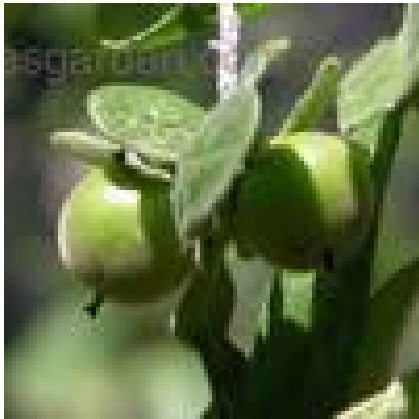
Native Plants' Connection to Wildlife



**Mammals:
food**

**Squirrels &
pecans**

Native Plants' Connection to Wildlife



Mammals:
food

Raccoons &
ringtails



Texas
persimmon

Native Plants' Connection to Wildlife

Birds: food

Robins &
yaupon
holly



Mockingbirds
& chili
pequin
peppers



Native Plants' Connection to Wildlife

Birds: food

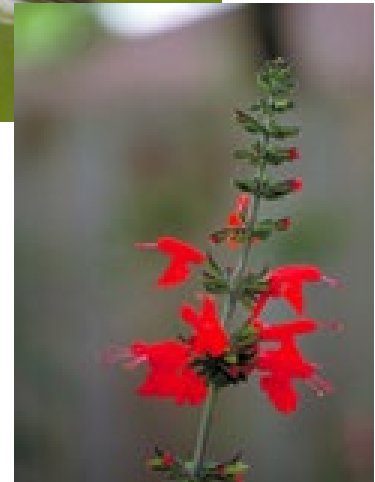
Hummingbirds &...



Turks Cap



Crossvine



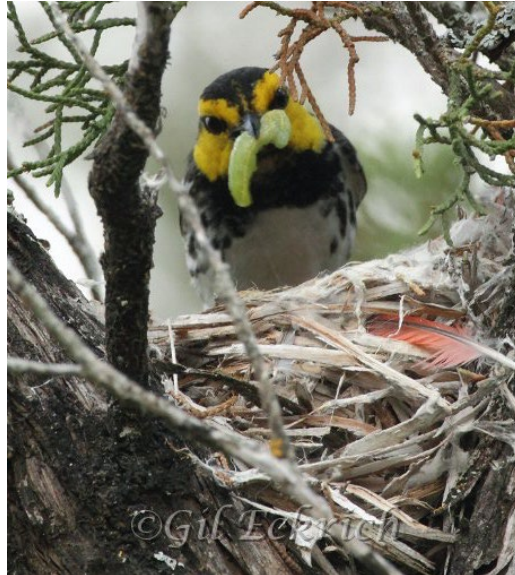
Scarlet Sage

Native Plants' Connection to Wildlife



Birds: nesting

Golden-Cheeked
Warbler



Nests made
exclusively from
Ashe juniper and
spider webs

Native Plants' Connection to Butterflies

Monarchs & milkweeds



Native Plants' Connection to Butterflies



Gulf Fritillary

& Passionflowers

Native Plants' Connection to Butterflies



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail & Mexican plum

Native Plants' Connection to Butterflies



Common Buckeye



& Wild Petunia

Non-native Plants: Where is their connection to wildlife?

Just see if you notice any birds, bees, or butterflies visiting these plants. Why?



Begonia



Marigold



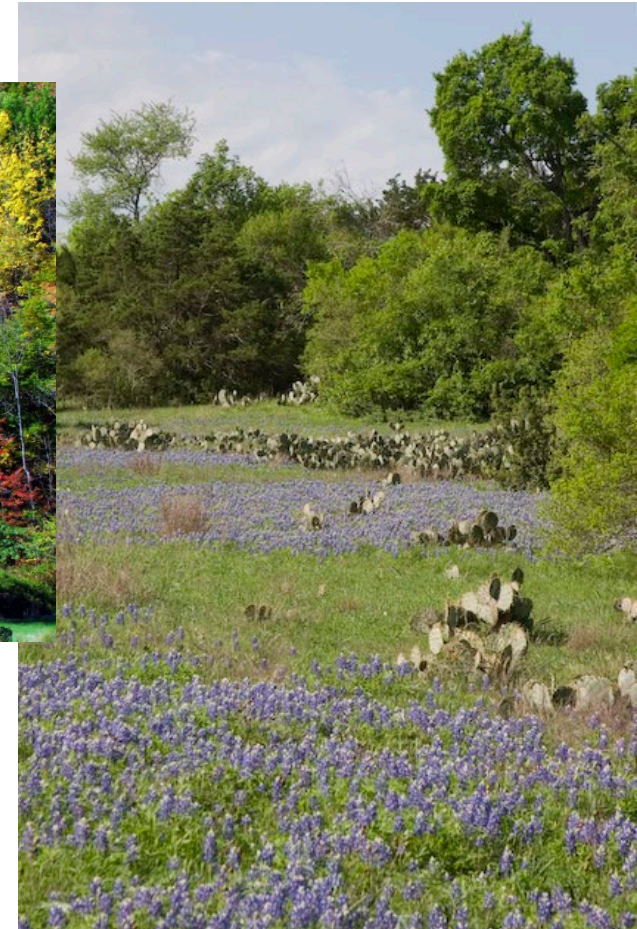
Petunia

Native Plants Provide a Unique Sense of Place



Where would you guess these are located?
Texas, Pennsylvania, Oregon?

Native Plants Provide a Unique Sense of Place: They resist “homogenization”



TX, PA, or OR?

Native Plants Help Restore Our Native Landscapes



NW Austin



Landscape Help? City of Austin: Grow Green Guide

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/grow-green-resources>

Transition is...

...the logical and efficient way to convert your yard to a green garden. For more information look for the *Grow Green Installation and Maintenance fact sheet*

1. The original yard had a typical suburban look—a single row of shrubs near the house and a large area of St. Augustine grass.



2. The St. Augustine was removed and donated to a neighbor. Enriched soil was added to maintain healthier plants and to conserve water. An irrigation system would be installed at this time.

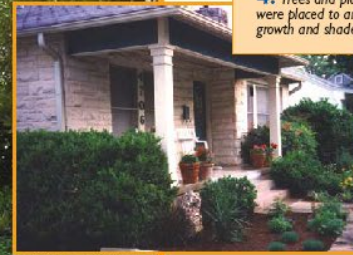


Step-by-Step Transition

3. Walkways and landscape beds were installed to set the framework for the yard.



4. Trees and plants were placed to anticipate growth and shade.



5. The finished product—a green garden with textural and seasonal variety for all to enjoy!



Think you have a beautiful Green Garden?



Apply for an award at www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden/downloads/awgg_form.pdf or look for an application at a Grow Green nursery.

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Damianita (*Chrysactinia mexicana*)

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium
leucanthum*)

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Cherry sage (*Salvia greggii*)

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Twist-leaf yucca
(*Yucca rupicola*)



Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin

American
beautyberry

(*Callicarpa
americana*)



Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin

Red Yucca

(Hesperaloe parviflora)



Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Four-nerve daisy (*Tetrameuris scaposa*)

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*)

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Flame-leaf sumac
(Rhus copallinum)



Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Texas Mountain Laurel
(*Sophora secundiflora*)

Some Great Basic Native Plants for Austin



Prickly-pear cactus
(*Opuntia engelmannii*)

Great Sources for Native Plants

April and October

Austin NPSOT Chapter Plant Sale -
<https://npsot.org/chapters/austin/>
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
<https://www.wildflower.org/>



Further info...

Austin NPSOT Chapter -
<https://npsot.org/chapters/austin/>

Native Plant Society of Texas
– state level
<https://npsot.org/>

Native Landscape Plant
Database
<https://npsot.org/resources/native-plants/native-plants-database/>

