

Recommended Native and Adapted Plants for Boerne

Native Plant Society of Texas - Boerne Chapter

www.npsot.org/boerne

Using native and well-adapted plants to landscape will save time and money. Once established, natives require less water, fertilizer, pesticides, and maintenance than most non-natives. Before buying plants, identify the characteristics of your yard, such as how much morning and afternoon sun or shade you have, available moisture, and drainage. All these will impact plant survival and the plant selections you make. Choose plants that are suited to your site. Use a variety of heights in your design. For example, plant a canopy tree to provide shade. Plant understory (U) trees, shade-loving shrubs, and shade tolerant perennials under existing canopy trees. Not only will your landscape be more appealing, but you will have a better survival rate when you provide some shade for plants that need protection from the blistering Texas sun. Consider leaving any existing native vegetation undisturbed, as these areas will be very low-maintenance, and will help preserve the “Hill Country Heritage” that attracts many people to this area. You may enhance these native areas by adding favorite compatible selections for increased color or wildlife food to attract hummingbirds 🐦, butterflies 🦋, and songbirds 🐦 to your yard. In general, avoid acid-loving plants as the soil in central Texas is very alkaline. Also, avoid water-requiring plants as the average rainfall in the area is usually only around 30 inches per year.

This list includes non-native plants which grow compatibly with drought-tolerant native plants. These are listed because of their hardiness in the Hill Country soil and climate and because of their availability in local nurseries. This list does not include non-natives which could be invasive in this climate or which require acid soils and excessive water.

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i> (characteristics) descriptive symbols
Canopy Trees (35-50 ft., ☉)	
Bur Oak *	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> (very large acorns, oak wilt resistant) 🌳
Big-tooth Maple *	<i>Acer grandidentatum</i> (great fall color, yellow to orange, moderate growth) 🌳🐦
Cedar Elm*	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> (yellow fall color, produces many seedlings, fast growth) 🌳🐦🦋
Chinquapin Oak*	<i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i> (fall color, reds to browns, oak wilt resistant) 🌳🐦
Escarpment Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina var. eximia</i> (spring white flowers, yellow fall color) 🌳🐦
Mexican Sycamore	<i>Platanus mexicana</i> (insect resistant, fast growth) 🌳
Mexican (Monterrey) White Oak	<i>Quercus polymorpha</i> (adapted, fast growing, oak wilt resistant) 🌳/🌳
Medium Trees (10-35 ft., ☉)	
American Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i> (unusual flowers on females, yellow to orange fall color) 🌳
Arizona Cypress	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> (adapted, conical form, fast growing) DR 🌳
Carolina Buckthorn *	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> (fall black berries) 🍷🐦🌳/🌳
Desert Willow *	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (summer purple to white flowers) 🍷 DR 🐦 🌳
Eve’s Necklace	<i>Sophora affinis</i> (spring, drooping pink flower clusters, black seed pods in fall) DR 🌳
Lacey Oak	<i>Quercus glaucooides</i> (oak wilt resistant, slow growth) 🐦🌳
Mexican Buckeye	<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i> (spring pink flowers, seedpods, fall color) 🍷🌳
Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus mexicana</i> (spring white flowers, late summer fruit) 🍷🐦🦋🌳
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i> (spring white flowers, fall color leaves and fruit) 🍷🌳 DR
Texas Mountain Laurel *	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i> (early spring fragrant purple flowers, large seed pods) DR 🌳
Texas Pistache	<i>Pistachia texana</i> (red fruit clusters on female trees only, evergreen in mild winters) 🐦
Texas Redbud (or Mexican) *	<i>Cercis canadensis var. texensis</i> (var. mexicana) (early spring pink flowers) 🍷 U DR 🌳
Deciduous Shrubs-Small Trees (4-20 ft.)	
Anacacho Orchid Tree	<i>Bauhinia congesta</i> (adapted, multi trunked, spring white flowers) 🍷🍷🦋
American Beautyberry *	<i>Callicarpa americana</i> (fall purple or white berries) 🍷🍷 U DR 🐦
Crepe Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> (adapted, summer white to purple flowers) 🍷 DR
Desert Willow *	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (adapted, multi-trunked, spring-fall purple-white flowers) 🍷🐦🦋
Goldenball Leadtree	<i>Leucaena retusa</i> (adapted, multi trunked, yellow fuzzy ball flowers) 🍷🐦🦋

Kidneywood	<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i> (summer white flowers) ☉ 🐦 DR 🐦
Possumhaw Holly *	<i>Ilex decidua</i> (winter red to orange berries) ☉ DR 🐦
Rough-Leaf Dogwood *	<i>Cornus drummondii</i> (spring white flowers, fall white berries) ☉ 🐦 🐦 U 🐦
Texas Lantana*	<i>Lantana horrida</i> (spring to fall yellow, red-orange flowers) ☉ DR 🐦 🐦
Texas Persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i> (smooth beautiful bark) ☉ 🐦 U DR 🐦
Wafer-Ash (Hop Tree)	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> (host plant for swallowtail) 🐦 ☉ 🐦 U 🐦

Evergreen Shrubs-Small Trees (4-20 ft.)

Agarita *	<i>Berberis trifoliolata</i> (spring yellow flowers, red summer berries) ☉ 🐦 U DR 🐦
Agave (Century Plant)	<i>Agave species</i> (long lived, dies after bloom, sharp spines) ☉
Cenizo *	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> (grey or green leaves, purple flowers. after rain) ☉ DR
Evergreen Sumac *	<i>Rhus virens</i> (winter red berries, reddish leaves after frost) ☉ 🐦 U 🐦
Glossy Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i> , (adapted, white flowers throughout summer) ☉
Mexican Silk-tassel	<i>Garrya lindheimeri</i> (black fruit) 🐦 U DR 🐦
Prickly Pear*	<i>Opuntia macrorhiza</i> (yellow to orange flowers, spring, spineless varieties available) ☉ 🐦
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> (adapted, blue-purple flowers, spring-summer, upright or trailing) ☉ DR
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica cerifera</i> (adapted, dwarf or standard., blue waxy berries, attracts wildlife) ☉ 🐦 DR 🐦
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i> (winter red berries, wildlife) ☉ DR 🐦

Shade and Understory Flowering Perennials - Sub-shrubs (●)

Blue Mist Flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i> (adapted, fall blue flowers) 🐦 🐦 🐦
Cedar Sage*	<i>Salvia roemeriana</i> (spring to summer red flowers) DR 🐦
Chile Pequin*	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> (late summer red peppers) DR 🐦
Columbine, Hinckley's	<i>Aquilegia hinckleyana</i> (spring yellow flowers.) DR 🐦
Columbine, Red *	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> (spring, red with yellow flowers) DR 🐦 🌸/🌸
Lily of the Nile	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i> (adapted, late spring, white to dark blue flowers) 🐦
Obedient Plant	<i>Physotegia virginiana</i> (spring or fall, pink to purple flowers) DR
Pigeonberry	<i>Rivina humilis</i> (summer to fall, small pink flowers and red berries) 🐦
Sage, Majestic	<i>Salvia guaranitica</i> (adapted, summer blue flowers) 🐦 DR
Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria resinosa</i> or <i>drummondii</i> (spring to fall, dark purple-blue flowers) 🐦 ☉
Shrimp Plant	<i>Justicia brandegeana</i> (rusty-reddish flowers) DR 🐦
Thoroughwort (White Mist Flower)	<i>Eupatorium havanense</i> (summer to fall white flowers) 🐦 🐦
Turk's Cap*	<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i> var. <i>drummondii</i> (summer red flowers, fall red berries) 🐦 DR 🐦 🐦

Full Sun Flowering Perennials – Sub-shrubs (☉)

Amaryllis	<i>Hippeastrum x Johnsonii</i> (adapted, spring to fall flowers, red, pink, or white)
Antique Roses	<i>Rosa species</i> (adapted, spring to fall flowers, various colors, various sizes) 🌸
Autumn Asters*	<i>Aster species</i> (fall purple flowers) DR 🐦
Autumn Sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i> (spring to fall flowers, white, pink, coral, red, purple) DR 🐦 🐦
Basket (Bear) Grass	<i>Nolina texana</i> (fall cream plume, not a true grass, mounding form)
Big Red Sage	<i>Salvia penstemonoides</i> (summer red-pink flowers) DR 🐦
Blackfoot Daisy*	<i>Melampodium leucanthm</i> (spring to fall, white flowers) DR 🐦 🐦
Brown-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> (summer yellow and brown flowers) DR 🐦
Butterfly Weed, Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> (summer orange flowers) 🐦
Butterfly Weed, Tropical	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> (summer orange with red flowers) 🐦
Copper Canyon Daisy	<i>Tagetes lemonii</i> (late summer to frost, yellow flowers) DR 🐦
Coral Bean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i> (summer to fall, red tubular flowers) DR 🐦
Coreopsis, Goldenwave	<i>Coreopsis species</i> (spring to summer, yellow daisy-like flowers) DR 🐦
Crinum lilies	<i>Crinum species</i> (adapted, summer, white to dark pink flowers, strap-like foliage)
Daisy, Oxeye or Shasta	<i>Chrysanthemum species</i> (spring, white and yellow flowers) 🐦
Damianita*	<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i> (spring yellow flowers, and after rain) DR 🐦 🌸
Daylilies 🐦	<i>Hemerocallis species</i> (adapted, spring to fall, various colors and heights flowers)
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> (spring pink flowers) 🐦 🐦
Firebush (Mexican)	<i>Hamelia patens</i> (adapted, orange-red tubular flowers late summer-fall, prune after freeze) 🐦
Flame Acanthus	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> (summer to fall, orange flowers) DR 🐦 🐦
Foxglove	<i>Penstemon cobeia</i> (spring flowers, white to pink or purple) 🐦
Gaura*	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> (airy, fine arching stems tipped with pink flowers) 🐦 DR
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris mucronata</i> (fall flowers, purple) 🐦 🐦
Goldenrod, Prairie	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i> (fall flowers, yellow) 🐦 🐦
Indigo Spires	<i>Salvia farinacea</i> x <i>S. longispicata</i> (adapted, summer to frost, blue-violet flowers) DR 🐦 🐦
Iris, German Bearded	<i>Iris germanica</i> (adapted, spring flowers, white to purple)
Maximilian Sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> (fall, large yellow flowers) 🐦 🐦

Mexican Bush Sage
 Mexican Mint Marigold
 Mexican Oregano
 Mexican Petunia
 Mexican Skullcap (Pink)
 Mealy Blue Sage
 Mistflower, Gregg's
 Mountain Sage
 Pineapple Sage
 Plumbago
 Purple Coneflower
 Red Yucca*
 Rock Penstemon
 Rock Rose*
 Scarlet Penstemon (Hill Country)
 Skeletonleaf Goldeneye
 Slender Stem Bitterweed
 Spider Lily
 Spiderwort
 Society Garlic
 Summer Phlox
 Texas Betony*
 Trailing Lantana
 Tropical Sage (Scarlet)
 Twist-Leaf Yucca*
 Verbena
 Yarrow
 Yellow Bells (Esperanza)*
 Winecup
 Zexmenia*

Salvia leucantha (adapted, fall, amethyst and white flowers) DR 🦋 🌿
Tagetes lucida (adapted, fall deep yellow flowers) DR 🦋
Poliomenantha longiflora (adapted, spring to frost, lilac flowers) DR 🌿
Ruellia brittoniana (adapted, late spring to fall, blue-purple flowers) DR 🌿
Scutellaria suffrutescens (adapted, summer-fall pink flowers, mounding) DR 🌿 🦋
Salvia farinacea (spring to fall, white to blue flowers) DR 🦋
Eupatorium greggii (adapted, summer blue flowers) 🌿 🦋
Salvia regla (adapted, fall, red-orange flowers) DR 🦋 🌿
Salvia elegans (adapted, summer to fall, red flowers, edible herb) DR 🦋 🌿
Plumbago auriculata (adapted, spring-fall, blue to white flowers) DR 🌿
Echinacea angustifolia (adapted, spring to fall, pink-purple flowers) DR 🌿 🦋
Hesperaloe parviflora (spring pink-red flowers) DR 🌿 🌿
Penstemon baccharifolius (summer red flowers) 🌿
Pavonia lasiopetala (spring to fall, pink flowers) 🦋 🌿
Penstemon triflorus (spring red flowers) 🌿
Viguiera stenoloba (adapted, summer, yellow daisy-like flowers) DR 🌿
Hymenoxys scaposa (abundant spring yellow flowers, blooms all year) DR 🦋
Hymenocallis liriosme (spring white flowers, leaves strap-like)
Tradescantia species (spring, purple, blue, pink flowers)
Tulbaghia violacea (adapted, summer to fall, lavender flowers) DR
Phlox paniculata (adapted, summer flowers, pink to purple) 🌿 🦋
Stachys coccinea (adapted, summer to fall coral/red tubular flowers) 🌿 🦋 🌿
Lantana montevidensis (adapted, spring to frost purple or white flowers) DR 🦋
Salvia coccinea (summer flowers, red, white, coral) DR 🦋 🌿
Yucca rupicola (spring white flowers) 🌿
Verbena species (spring to summer flowers, pink, purple) DR 🦋
Achillea millefolium (adapted, fern-like foliage, summer flowers, white, yellow, pink) DR 🦋
Tecoma stans (adapted, spring to fall, yellow flowers) DR 🦋 🌿
Callirhoe species (spring to summer, purple flowers)
Zexmenia hispida (summer to fall, yellow-orange flowers) DR 🦋 🌿

Vines

Coral Honeysuckle*
 Coral Vine
 Crossvine
 Scarlet Clematis
 Passion Vine (Maypop)
 Trumpet Creeper
 Virginia Creeper

Lonicera sempervirens (spring to fall, coral-red flowers, 10+ feet) 🌿 🌿 🌿 🦋 🌿 🌿
Antigonon leptopus (late summer to fall white or rose/pink flower clusters, 30+ feet) 🌿 🌿
Bignonia capreolata (spring to fall, high climbing, reaching 30+ feet) 🌿 🌿 🌿
Clematis texensis (spring to summer, delicate vine, red flowers, endemic, 5+ feet) 🌿 🌿 🌿
Passiflora incarnate (spring to summer, lavender flowers, fall berry, 15+ feet) 🌿 🌿 🌿 DR 🦋
Campsis radicans (summer red-orange flower, vigorous climber to 50 feet) 🌿 🌿 DR 🌿
Parthenocissus quinquefolia (fall, brilliant red leaves, high climbing to 50 feet) 🌿 🌿 🌿 🌿 🌿 DR

Ferns

Southern Maidenhair Fern
 River Fern

Adiantum capillus-veneris (needs moist environment) 🌿 🌿 🌿
Dropteris normalis (needs moist environment) 🌿 🌿 🌿

Groundcover

Frogfruit
 Horseherb
 Monkey Grass (Mondo)
 Ruellia, 'Katie' or 'Bonita'
 Sedges
 Sedum species (Stonecrop)

Phyla incisa (spring to fall white flowers) 🌿 🌿 DR 🦋
Calyptocarpus vialis (spring to fall very small yellow flowers) 🌿 🌿 🌿
Ophiopogon japonicus (adapted, 4-8", dwarf form available) 🌿
Ruellia brittoniana (dwarf, spring to fall, blue/purple, pink or white flowers) 🌿 🌿
Carex species (clump, grass-like foliage) 🌿 🌿 🌿
Sedum species (white, yellow or pink flowered varieties) 🌿 🌿

Ornamental Bunch Grasses

Gulf Muhly*
 Lindheimer's Muhly*
 Indian Grass
 Inland Sea Oats
 Mexican Feathergrass







Muhlenbergia capillaries (fall pink feathery seedheads) 🌿 🌿
Muhlenbergia lindheimeri (summer, with fall plumes) fireflies, 🌿 🌿 DR 🌿 🦋
Sorghastrum nutans (late summer, with fall golden plumes) fireflies, 🌿 🌿 DR 🌿 🦋
Chasmanthium latifolium (summer to fall, attractive seed heads) fireflies, 🌿 🌿 🌿 DR 🌿 🦋
Stipa tenuissima (adapted, summer, showy fall silver to gold clumps) fireflies, 🌿 🌿 DR

Lawn Grasses




Buffalo, 609 or Prairie

Buchloe dactyloides (blue green, little watering and mowing) 🌿 DR

Symbols:

DR	Deer Resistant but dependent on local conditions
	Attracts birds
	Attracts butterflies
	Attracts hummingbirds
	Evergreen
	Deciduous
	Late Deciduous, almost Evergreen

Sunlight Requirements:

	Full sun
	Part sun/part shade, good for understory plant
	Shade
U	Understory plants

*** Operation NICE! - P.O.M. (Natives Instead of Common Exotic - Plant Of the Month)**

For a complete list, planting, and care instructions for all NICE! Plants of the Month see the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas website at: www.npsot.org/boerne

Local Nurseries Participating in Operation NICE! include:

Barkley's Nursery Center
Hill Country African Violets
Maldonado Landscape and Nursery
Where the Wild Things Bloom

Watch for the **Cibolo Nature Center's Mostly Native Plant Sale** in April for a huge selection of native plants.

Exotic or very invasive plants not recommended for the Boerne Area include:**Trees (10-50 ft., ☉)**

Chinaberry
Chinese Pistache
Chinese Tallow
Giant Cane

Deciduous Shrubs-Small Trees (4-20 ft., ☉)

Asian Mimosa

Evergreen Shrubs – Small Trees (4-20 ft., ☉)

Ligustrum species
Nandina
Pyracantha

Shade and Understory Flowering Perennials – Sub-shrubs (●)

Vinca

Full Sun Flowering Perennials – Sub-shrubs (☉)

Castor Bean
Water Hyacinth

Vines

English Ivy (☉●●)
Japanese Honeysuckle (☉)

Ornamental Grasses (☉)

Fountain Grass
Pampas Grass

Lawn Grass (☉)

Bermuda
St. Augustine

Recommended Websites:

Cibolo Nature Center: www.cibolo.org
Native Plant Society of Texas: www.npsot.org
Native Plant Society of Texas – Boerne Chapter: www.npsot.org/boerne
The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: www.wildflower.org

Native Plant Society of Texas – Boerne Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month, September – June, at 7:00 PM (6:30 PM social time) at the Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. All meetings are free and open to the public.