

TOP 100 NATIVE PLANTS

FOR HARRIS AND ADJACENT COUNTIES



These **Native Plants** are recommended based upon a combination of their regional suitability for **landscaping AND** their value to **wildlife**. These plants grow well in the soil conditions of Harris and surrounding counties, including gumbo, AND provide value to wildlife such as birds, butterflies and beneficial insects. Each species is hardy for the Gulf Coast climate. Most plants do not require fertilizing, or any special treatment, except proper care until established. Naturally, if the plant becomes stressed or diseased special treatment is recommended. Please see other references for growth characteristics (height, width, evergreen, etc.) and appropriate planting conditions (sun, shade, moisture, etc.) for each species. Appropriate planting yields a healthier and more attractive plant.

Ten Big Trees: Swamp Chestnut Oak, Water Oak, Willow Oak, Wild Black Cherry, Black Gum, Loblolly Pine, Hackberry, Bald Cypress, Sweetgum, Red Mulberry

Ten Small Trees: Mexican Plum, American Holly, Drummond Red Maple, Cherry Laurel, Eastern Redbud, Green Hawthorn, Carolina Buckthorn, Rusty Black-haw Viburnum, Farkleberry, Mesquite

Ten Large Woody Shrubs (can grow to small tree size): Southern Wax Myrtle, Deciduous Holly, Yaupon Holly, Rough Leaf Dogwood, American Elderberry, Flame Leaf Sumac, Parsley Hawthorn, Black Willow, Coral Bean, Buttonbush

Ten Small Shrubs: American Beautyberry, Dwarf Palmetto, Texas Lantana, Possum-haw Viburnum, Virginia Sweetspire, Red Chokecherry, Gregg Salvia, Fragrant Sumac, Narrow Leaf Yucca, Barbados Cherry

Ten Perennials For Sun: Purple Coneflower, Scarlet Sage, Maximilian Sunflower, Yellow Bells, Flame Acanthus, Bergamot, Kansas Gayfeather, Eastern Gamagrass, Switch Grass, Indian Grass

Ten Perennials For Shade: Turk's Cap, Strawberry Bush, Cardinal Flower, Hinckley's Columbine, Farkleberry, Blue Mistflower, Big Thicket Hibiscus, Gulf Coast Penstemon, Fall Obedient Plant, Arkansas Yucca

Ten Vines For Sun: Coral Honeysuckle, Purple Passionflower, Carolina Jessamine, Carolina Snailseed, Globe Berry, Common Greenbriar, Mustang Grape, Prairie Rose, Trumpet Creeper, Curly Clematis

Ten Vines For Shade: Virginia Creeper, Cross Vine, Yellow Passionflower, Saw Greenbriar, Woolly Pipevine, Texas Dutchman's Pipe, Pitcher Clematis, Leather Clematis, Spread-lobe Passionflower, Virginia Dutchman's Pipe

Ten Groundcovers For Sun: Frog Fruit, Knotroot Bristlegrass, Gulf Muhly, Prairie Verbena, Little Bluestem, Indian Blanket, Winecup, Fern Acacia, Purple Groundcherry, Scarlet Sage

Ten Groundcovers For Shade: Pigeonberry, Coralberry, Sweet William, Spiderwort, Maidenhair Fern, Horseherb, Widow's Tears, Partridgeberry, Bracken Fern, Missouri Violet

References:

Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Texas, by Hatch, Gandhi, Brown
American Wildlife & Plants: A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits,
by Martin, Zim, Nelson
Butterflies of Houston & Southeast Texas, by John and Gloria Tveten
Trees Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southwest, by R. A. Vines
Native Texas Plants Landscaping Region by Region, by Wasowski
Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Texas, by Turner, Nichols, Denny, Doron

Guide to Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines,
Published by Houston Chapter of NPSOT
Life Histories of North American Birds, by A. C. Bent
A Checklist of the Native and Naturalized Plants of Houston and Vicinity, by
R.A Vines and Frederick W. Thurow
Informal Survey of Some Chapter Members
Personal Observations of the Compiler

Compiled for the Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter by Glenn Olsen from an informal survey of chapter members and the references listed above. August 2004