

Summer Gardening in Texas

PLANT TREES

COMMENTS

Crape Myrtle	Comes in a variety of colors and heights (from shrubs to tall trees). Choose the height you need for your landscape. DO NOT TOP. No need to trim off spent bloom stems.
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> , light pink to lavender trumpet-shaped flowers
Lemon Tree (Meyer)	Can be grown in a pot
Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus mexicanus</i> , fragrant, showy, white flowers before the leaves appear, fruit a favorite of birds in the fall

SHRUBS

Abelia	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i> , glossy leaves, small flowers
<i>Buddleia</i>	Comes in a variety of colors, but butterflies seem to prefer the lavender variety
Chardonnay Pearl	<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> , yellow green foliage, white flowers
<i>Datura</i>	AKA Trumpet Flower, annual that re-seeds, Entire plant is poisonous.
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i> , bright red blooms, can grow as tall as 15' but can be kept smaller, available in dwarf size, pollinators love it, requires full sun
Flowering Quince	Kind of messy growth habit, but gorgeous orange red flowers
Gregg's Blue Mistflower	Butterfly magnet--especially Monarchs
Mexcan Petunia	<i>Ruellia simplex</i> , lavender, pink flowers
Nandina	Berries can be poisonous to birds--if they eat a lot of them.
Pride of Barbados	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> , Texas Superstar, showy orange-red flowers
Rose of Sharon	AKA Hardy Hibiscus, variety of colors
Rosemary	Also a trailing variety that seems to be hardier than the bush variety. Not sure whether to put this in the "herb" or "shrub" category, but it is a gorgeous shrub with lavender flowers.
Roses	Lots of varieties--Stay tuned for those resistant to Rose Rosette disease--a death sentence in many varieties.
Salvia gregii	Variety of colors
Salvia: Henry Duehlbert	Texas Superstar, variety of mealy or blue sage
Salvia: Jerusalem	<i>Phlomis</i> , 3-4' tall, bright yellow flowers

SHRUBS (continued)	
Salvia: Mexican Bush Sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i> , white or purple flowers, pollinators love it
Salvia: Russian	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> , Colors range from dark purple to pink.
Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye	<i>Viguiera stenoloba</i> , yellow flowers
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i> , white flowers, orange and red foliage in the fall
White Desert Plumbago	<i>Plumbago scanden</i> , evergreen with red foliage in fall and winter
<i>Zexmenia</i>	Bright yellow flowers
VINES	
Black-Eyed Susan vine	<i>Thunbergia alata</i> , tender perennial that re-seeds
Carolina Jessamine	Evergreen with fragrant yellow flowers
Clematis	Jack Manii is not supposed to do well here, but try it in a sunny area with shaded roots. Gorgeous deep purple flowers.
Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> , showy, trumpet-shaped flowers, pollinators love it
Ivy	Lots of varieties
Moon Flower vine	<i>Datura</i> , annual, re-seeds All parts of plant are poisonous.
Purple Hyacinth Bean	Freely re-seeds; Do not eat seeds.
Queen's Wreath	AKA Coral Vine; aggressive grower, cut to ground in winter
PERENNIALS	
Bird of Paradise	Soil must be kept moist throughout spring and summer, the plant should be allowed to dry out slightly between watering during fall and winter. Do not overwater.
Canna	Variety of colors, variegated foliage in some species
Cactus	Lots of varieties
Coral Bells	AKA alumroot, <i>Heuchera</i>
Daisy, Four-Nerve	<i>Hymenoxys</i>
Daisy, Oxeye	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Fall Aster	One of the best sources of lavender blooms; butterfly magnet
Flame acanthus	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> , AKA Hummingbird Bush, red flowers and foliage
Iris	Lots of varieties, colors
Lantana	Variety of colors

PERENNIALS (continued)	
Mexican Mint Marigold	<i>Tagetes lucida</i> , AKA Spanish Tarragon, Texas Tarragon, Mexican Tarragon, yellow flowers
Milkweed: Carol Clark's favorites listed in order of north Texas host plants for Monarch butterflies	<i>Asclepias viridis</i> , <i>Asclepias asperula</i> , <i>Asclepias oenotheroides</i> , <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> , <i>Asclepias texana</i> , <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> , <i>Asclepias verticillata</i> NOTE: Please don't plant curassavica (Tropical Milkweed) ; not a true milkweed with little to benefit Monarchs.
Pink Texas Scullcap	Tiny flowers on mounds of foliage
Rudebeckia	AKA black-eyes susan
Sedum	AKA Stonecrop, multiple varieties and colors
Spider Lilies	<i>Hymenocallis</i> , white, loves moist areas
Summer Phlox	Texas Superstar: John Fanick, <i>Phlox paniculata</i> , bicolor, pink with rose lavender eyes
Texas Betony	AKA Scarlet Betony, Scarlet Hedge Nettle, likes dry shade
Texas Star Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> , likes to grow in wet areas, white or crimson flowers
Turk's Cap	<i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i> , loved by hummingbirds and butterflies
Verbena	Variety of colors
Vinca	AKA Periwinkles, lots of colors and varieties
Yarrow	Medicinal uses (check with physician), flower or herb garden; can be invasive
Yucca, Color Guard	
Yucca, Red	
ANNUALS	
Bougainvillea	Variety of colors, wonderful in pots
Dianthus	Variety of colors
Pentas	Variety of colors
Summer Snapdragon	<i>Angelonia</i> , Texas Superstar, spreading annual with upright flower spikes that resemble miniature snapdragons
Sunflower	Annual that re-seeds
Vinca	AKA Periwinkles, lots of colors and varieties
Zinnia	variety of colors
GRASSES	
Inland Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> , re-seeds, can be invasive--cut off seed heads in January, after birds have had their fill. Survives well in shade and moist areas such as creek and riverbanks.
Maiden Grass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> , several varieties

FERNS	
Asparagus Fern	Nice texture contrast
Holly Fern	Evergreen
GROUND COVER	
Purple Heart	<i>Setcreasea pallida</i> , dies to ground in winter, comes back in spring, deep purple foliage, light pink flowers
VEGETABLES/HERBS	
Cucumbers	Annual
Fennel	Magnet for swallowtail butterflies; short-lived perennial, freely re-seeds, deadheading prevents it from becoming invasive.
Okra	Annual
Peppers	Bell peppers, jalapeños, etc., annual
Additional Information/Comments	
* Mulching is critical for summer gardening.	
* Dark pine bark mulch is preferred.	
* Drip irrigation saves money and conserves water.	
* Be consistent with watering, don't change pattern.	
* There are new sprinkler heads that provide larger drops with less evaporation.	
* Don't water between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.	