



TEXAS Superstar[®]

Strong and
Stunning Plants
for Texans



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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It isn't easy to become a Texas Superstar® plant.

Only the toughest, most reliable and best-looking plants make the cut. Every plant earning the Texas Superstar® designation undergoes several years of extensive field trials by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, both part of the Texas A&M System. They must show superior performance under Texas' tough growing conditions. During the field trials, plants receive minimal soil preparation, reasonable levels of water and no pesticides.

What it takes to be a Superstar®

What does this mean to the average homeowner?

It means you will find landscape success with beautiful, proven, Texas-tough plants. Find these plants at your local nursery and be sure to look for the Texas Superstar® logo on the plant tags.

Visit **TexasSuperstar.com** for additional details.

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GO TEXAN

GO TEXAN is the Texas Department of Agriculture's program promoting the products, culture and communities that call Texas home. As a mark of Lone Star pride, the GO TEXAN logo—a glowing brand in the shape of Texas—can be found on everything from floral products and grapefruits to cowboy boots and retirement destinations. For more information, visit GoTexan.org.



Angelonia, Summer Snapdragon

Angelonia angustifolia
Serena series



Angelonia is a spreading annual with upright flower spikes that resemble miniature snapdragons. The Serena series are the only angelonias that are grown from seed. Flower colors available include white, pink, purple, lavender and lavender pink. They flower all season long until frost. Angelonia can be used as a border planting, a ground cover or as a trailing plant for mixed containers.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 12–18 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: spring

Soil type: most soil types, as long as well drained

Suggested uses: mass bedding or ground cover, mixed borders and containers

Special notes: Very reliable performer in all areas of Texas; tolerates heat well.

Whopper Begonias

Begonia x semperflorens-cultorum Whopper® Series



Wax begonias have long been a staple of Texas landscapes. This recently introduced series distinguishes itself with large leaves on large plants that have enormous flowers. They are outstanding in shade and partial shade, and will tolerate full sun except in extreme heat. Both green and bronze foliage types are available with red or rose flowers. “Everything is bigger in Texas” and Whopper begonias fit the bill!

Exposure: partial to full shade; does well in morning sun and will tolerate full sun, except in extreme heat, especially with low relative humidity.

Height: in shade can reach 24–30 inches with a 12–16 inch spread. Will be shorter and more compact with more sun.

Plant type: annual

Planting time: best in spring just after frost but can be planted later. Will be more heat and sun tolerant if allowed to establish well

before the summer heat. If planting in mid-summer, a shady location is advised.

Soil type: A well-prepared bed with organic matter and good drainage is best, but this plant is tolerant of many soil types. Should be kept moist but not too wet. Moderately drought tolerant.

Suggested uses: excellent for mass bedding, in mixed borders and containers.

Special notes: Be careful not to overwater, especially if growing in containers

“Baby’s Breath” Euphorbias

Euphorbia hypericifolia
(syn. *Chamaesyce hypericifolia*)



These Euphorbias are very finely textured, rambling annuals that present the appearance of a cloud of white in the landscape. Very well-suited for the hot Texas summers, these unusual plants perform best as edging, ground cover and mixed container plants. Several varieties performed well in the Texas Superstar® trials, including “White Manaus,” “Breathless White,” “Silver Fog” and “Hip Hop.”

Exposure: full sun

Height: 12–18 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: spring

Suggested uses: edging, ground cover and mixed container plants

Special notes: Very useful for blending other flowering plants together in either mixed borders or mixed container plantings. Flowers heavily through the summer until frost.

Texas Bluebonnet

Lupinus texensis



The Texas state flower is a hardy winter annual native to Texas. This species is the most commonly seen variety along roadsides and in pastures throughout the state. Flowers are densely arranged on a spike with a characteristic ice white terminal tip.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 12–24 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: fall

Soil type: well-drained soil

Suggested uses: flower beds, meadows and hillsides

Special notes: The Texas bluebonnet, which blooms between March and May, has a blue flowering stalk that is tipped with white, just like a bunny’s tail. These hearty plants rarely suffer from insect and disease problems, however a well-balanced fertilizer applied in the fall will help with flower production.

Texas Maroon Bluebonnet

Lupinus texensis
‘Texas Maroon’
(syn. ‘Alamo Fire’)



A selection of the Texas state flower is a hardy winter annual native to Texas. Flowers are densely arranged on a spike with a characteristic ice white terminal tip.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 12–14 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: fall

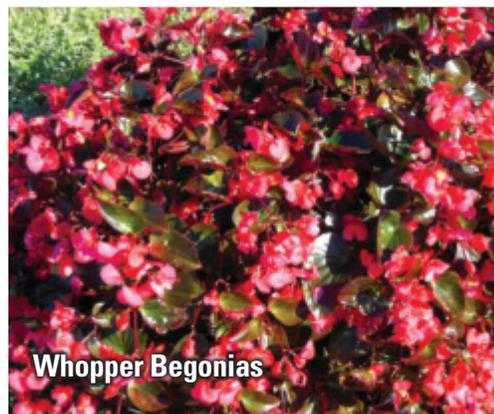
Soil type: well-drained soil

Suggested uses: bedding, window boxes, patio containers and hanging baskets

Special notes: Texas maroon bluebonnets have a spreading growth habit and reddish-maroon flowers with a characteristic white terminal tip. It is recommended they are spaced 12 inches apart when transplanting or seeding.



Summer Snapdragon



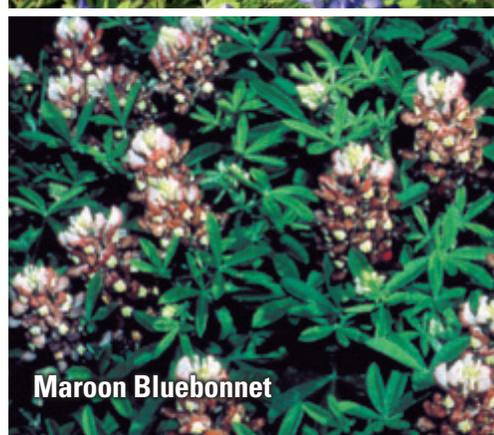
Whopper Begonias



“Baby’s Breath” Euphorbias



Bluebonnet



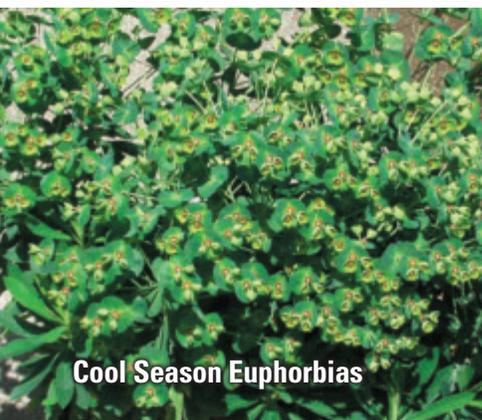
Maroon Bluebonnet

annuals

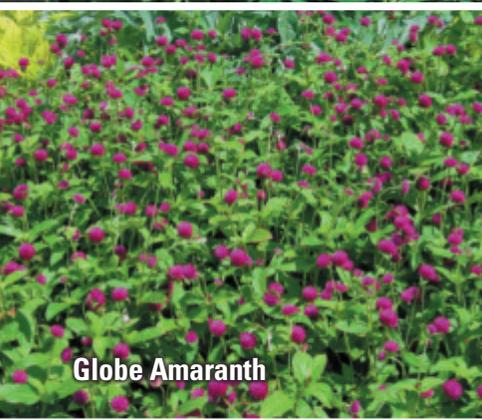




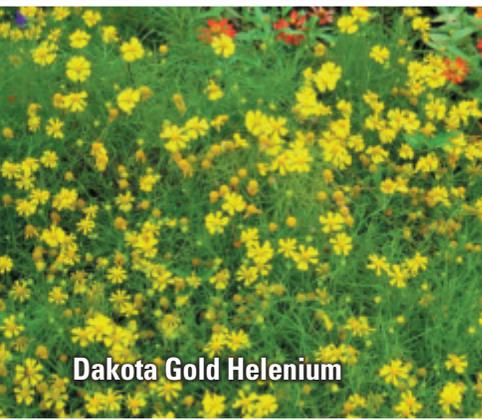
Lady Bird Johnson Bluebonnet



Cool Season Euphorbias



Globe Amaranth



Dakota Gold Helenium



Larkspur

Lady Bird Johnson Royal Blue Bluebonnet

Lupinus texensis



A selection of the Texas state flower with a distinct royal (cobalt) blue color was named in honor of former first lady, Lady Bird Johnson; flowers are densely arranged on a spike with a characteristic ice white terminal tip.

Exposure: full sun for optimum bloom

Height: 12–14 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: sow scarified seed in the fall; if one misses the planting window, transplants can be set out in late winter

Soil type: numerous, but must be well-drained

Suggested uses: accent beds, meadows and hillsides, as well as containers

Special notes: The distinct cobalt color sets this bluebonnet apart from the Texas Bluebonnet. It is a vigorous plant and will do best if spaced 12 inches apart. It tends to produce more seed than other bluebonnets, so it should easily naturalize in an area given proper care.

Cool Season Euphorbias

Euphorbia martinii,
E. characias subsp. *wulfenii*,
E. amygdaloides

USDA Zone 6  
These cold and drought-tolerant winter annuals provide mounds of color in the landscape from fall to spring. They are not fond of summer

heat but may behave as perennials in western Texas. For a tight mounding plant of bluish green foliage, select the 'Tiny Tim' variety. For variegated foliage, try 'Ascot Rainbow.' For more of a red or dark maroon color, try 'Blackbird.' 'Rudolph' has dark green foliage with red accents. 'Tasmanian Tiger' or 'Glacier Blue' is notable for excellent cream and green variegated foliage.

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Height: 1–2 feet

Plant type: cool season annual

Planting time: late summer and fall

Soil type: best in potting soil in containers but will perform in ground beds, if soil is very well-drained

Suggested uses: best used in mixed containers, but also in well-drained landscape beds or rock gardens

Globe Amaranth

Gomphrena globosa



Globe amaranth (known by some as bachelor's buttons) are versatile, often overlooked, summer annuals that thrive in the Texas heat. Varieties range in size from 8 to 48 inches, and vary in color from whites to pinks to lavenders to dark, rich purples. The All Around, Las Vegas, QIS and Audray series, and Fireworks varieties are good performers.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 1–4 feet and about as wide, depending on variety

Plant type: heat-loving, summer annual

Planting time: early summer after nights become warm

Soil type: well-drained; tolerates a wide range of soil types

Suggested use: mass plantings, combination plantings with other summer annuals such as salvia and Mexican mint marigold, and also make nice cut flowers for beautifying the indoors

Dakota Gold Helenium

Helenium amarum 'Dakota Gold'



Helenium is a native Texas wildflower that now has improved cultivars for garden use. Once established, plants are Texas tough, continuing to grow and flower with little or no irrigation. Young plants are small flattened rosettes of foliage in the spring (or even late winter in southern locations) that develop strong tap roots. By mid-to-late spring, a canopy of thready dark green foliage develops and 1 inch diameter bright yellow composite flowers begin to appear. Flowering continues through autumn. The 'Dakota Gold' cultivar typically grows as low cushions of foliage topped with bright yellow flowers. Plants can be grown on most any well-drained soil with a sunny exposure. Good for low input landscapes where irrigation water is limited.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 6–8 inches

Plant type: reseeding annual

Planting time: anytime from containers

Soil type: well-drained slightly acidic soil is best, but it adapts to alkaline clay soils as long as drainage is adequate

Suggested uses: accent, border

Larkspur

Consolida ambigua

USDA Zone 7  

This reseeding annual has a backward-projecting spur, formed by the upper petal of the flower. The long spikes or panicles of flowers come in both single and double forms. Colors range from various shades of blue or purple-blue to pink and white. The soft, lacy foliage makes a great backdrop for the showy flower spikes.

annuals



Exposure: full sun for best bloom; will tolerate partial shade

Height: 36 inches

Plant type: reseeding annual

Planting time: fall

Soil type: well-drained soil

Suggested uses: in bedding, window boxes, cut flowers and dried flowers

Special notes: The Rocket Larkspur performs best in hardiness zone 7, spaced 10–12 inches apart. Disease or pest problems are minimal if plants are grown in well-drained soils.

White Stream Lobularia

Lobularia 'White Stream'



White Stream is a new type of alyssum that will survive the heat of Texas summers. It is a spreading annual that makes good ground cover and produces fragrant flowers all summer. It is vegetatively propagated.

Exposure: full sun for optimum flowering

Height: 4–6 inches by about 12–18 inches wide

Plant type: annual

Planting time: in early spring after the danger of frost has passed on 1-foot spacings

Soil type: tolerant of all soil types, as long as it's well-drained

Suggested uses: for the garden as ground cover or foreground planting; also useful as a spiller in mixed containers

Special notes: Water use is moderate with limited tolerance to drought.

Rio Series Mandevilla

Mandevilla (syn. *Dipladenia*)



The Rio series mandevillas sport glossy foliage and broad, showy, trumpet-shaped flowers that come in pink, hot pink and deep red. These mandevillas grow upright with little twining. These compact plants grow best in patio containers and can be grown alone or mixed with other annuals wherever a splash of color is needed. They tolerate summer heat but also benefit from some afternoon shade.

Exposure: full sun with afternoon shade

Height: 1–2 feet in height and width

Plant type: treat as a summer annual in most of Texas;

perennial in south Texas

Planting time: spring or early summer

Soil type: well-drained container mix or in soil bed with high organic matter and good drainage

Suggested use: accent plant in container on patio

Special notes: Excellent plant around pools or wherever a colorful, tropic effect is needed.

Mari-mum

Tagetes erecta



There are several different varieties of African-type (largeflowered) marigolds such as the Antigua, Discover or Taishan series that can be used to produce the Mari-mum effect. The Mari-mum type marigolds bloom two to three times longer than chrysanthemums and are very low maintenance.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 8–16 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: transplant in late summer using plants with only tight flower buds showing and preferably no open flowers

Soil type: well-drained soil with organic matter

Suggested uses: Mari-mums have such visual impact that they're a wonderful choice for mass planting along the front edge of a flower bed, walk-way or garden path. Mari-mums also do extremely well in containers.

Special notes: Applying 1–2 pounds of a slow release lawn fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area will enhance blooming.

Laura Bush Petunia

Petunia x 'Laura Bush'



This is an old-fashioned reseeding petunia. It is more cold tolerant, disease resistant and heat tolerant than modern hybrids.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 24 inches

Plant type: annual

Planting time: spring and summer

Soil type: well-drained soil

Suggested uses: bedding, window boxes, patio containers and hanging baskets

Special notes: The Laura Bush petunia performs best in hardiness zone 7. It has a spreading growth habit with medium-size violet flowers. It grows best when transplanted 36 inches apart. This Texas Superstar blooms from spring until frost. Between bloom cycles, prune back by 20 percent and lightly fertilize.

Tidal Wave Silver and Cherry Petunia

Petunia x *hybrida* 'Tidal Wave Silver' and 'Tidal Wave Cherry'



These petunias are more heat, disease and cold tolerant than typical grandiflora-type petunias. The vigor of these plants ensures a plentiful flower supply during the summer and into the fall.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 18–20 inches; can spread up to 4 feet

Plant type: annual

Planting time: spring and summer, can be planted in October/November for late-winter and early-spring flowering

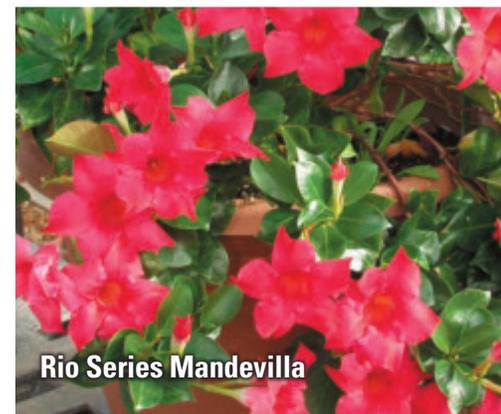
Soil type: adaptable to different soil types; must be well-drained

Suggested uses: bedding, ground cover and large containers

Special notes: Flowers are more vibrant if drip irrigation is used. Drought tolerant but benefits from regular watering and fertilization. If trimming is desired in mid-to-late summer, the plants can be lightly trimmed about 20 percent with a string trimmer. Water and lightly fertilize after trimming to stimulate growth and flowering.



White Stream Lobularia



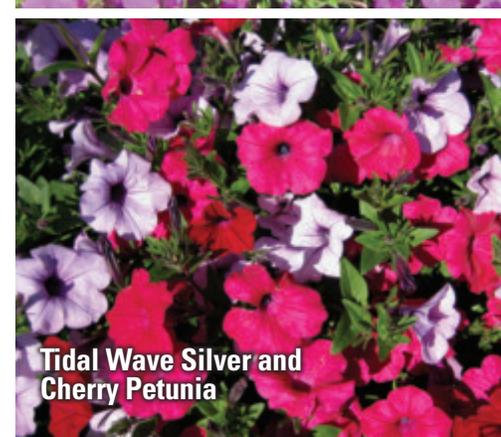
Rio Series Mandevilla



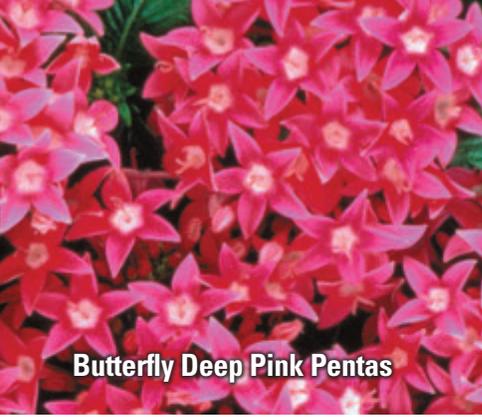
Mari-mum



Laura Bush Petunia



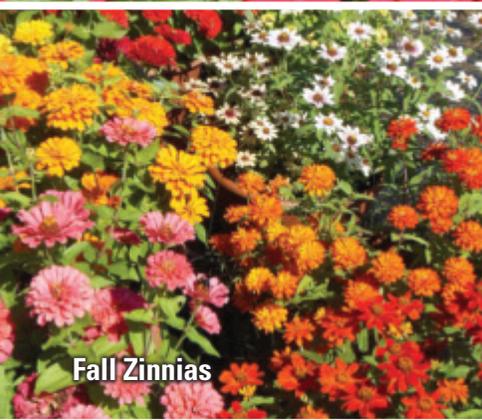
Tidal Wave Silver and Cherry Petunia



Butterfly Deep Pink Pentas



Vinca Cora® Series



Fall Zinnias



Texas Gold Columbine



'Princess Caroline' Napier Grass

Butterfly Deep Pink Pentas

Pentas lanceolata



Highly heat, soil and pest tolerant, this very low maintenance tropical annual provides from bright pink blooms spring through late fall. Excellent for mass plantings and containers where it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

- Exposure:** full sun to partial shade
- Height:** 24 inches tall, 24 inches wide
- Plant type:** annual
- Planting time:** spring
- Soil type:** adaptable to most soils as long as well-drained
- Suggested uses:** mass bedding, mixed borders and mixed containers
- Special notes:** Benefits from mulching and regular summer irrigation.

Vinca Cora® Series

Catharanthus roseus



Cora and Nirvana vinca (commonly referred to as periwinkle) are the first varieties of this species to be resistant to the Aerial Phytophthora fungus, a devastating disease that until now limited the use of this species in Texas landscapes. In addition, they are heat and humidity tolerant and deer resistant. They are available in a wide array of colors with either upright or trailing habits and flower throughout the summer.

- Exposure:** full sun, tolerates semi-shade
- Height:** 14–18 inches
- Plant type:** annual
- Planting time:** late spring to summer
- Soil type:** adaptable to most soils
- Suggested uses:** bedding, containers, hanging baskets (trailing types) and window boxes
- Special notes:** The best time to plant vinca is after the soil has thoroughly warmed in

late spring or early summer. It does best in hot weather. It is drought tolerant, and needs good soil drainage and regular water and fertilization at moderate levels.

Fall Zinnias

Zinnia x marylandica
Zinnia elegans



The Profusion and Zahara series of zinnia produce disease-resistant mounds of color that last until frost when planted in late summer. The more traditional flowers of the Dreamland and Magellan series can also be enjoyed at this time of year while avoiding the disease issues that can show up in the spring.

- Exposure:** full sun
- Height:** 12–18 inches
- Plant type:** annual
- Planting time:** late summer to early fall
- Soil type:** adaptable to soil type if well-drained and a variety of potting mixes
- Suggested uses:** mixed borders, mass bed displays and containers
- Special notes:** Very heat tolerant; do not overwater.

Texas Gold Columbine

Aquilegia chrysantha var. *hinckleyana* 'Texas Gold'



USDAZ one 6 This cool season perennial has bright yellow, lightly fragrant spring flowers atop its long stems. Its gray-green foliage is evergreen in warmer climates.

- Exposure:** filtered shade in the summer, and full sun in the winter and spring, such as found under the canopy of a deciduous tree
- Height:** 18–24 inches
- Plant type:** cool season perennial
- Planting time:** spring
- Soil type:** well-drained soil
- Suggested uses:** garden accent, specimen, hummingbird garden and container garden
- Special notes:** The Texas Gold columbine has an open clumping habit and grows as wide as 24 inches. It works best in full sun with medium water.

'Princess Caroline' Napier Grass

Pennisetum x 'Princess Caroline'



USDA Zone 7 'Princess Caroline' has beautiful wide leaves that are a deep purple in color. It does not flower and is resistant to leaf spot that can be seen on older varieties. It is very heat and drought tolerant and is perennial in most of the state.

- Exposure:** full sun
- Height:** grows from 4–6 feet tall depending on amount of watering and length of the growing season
- Plant type:** perennial in most of the state
- Planting time:** spring
- Soil type:** almost any well-drained soil
- Suggested uses:** specimen plant, accent plant in mixed borders or quick-growing screen
- Special notes:** Plants freeze to the ground, but they grow rapidly in the spring to make a bold statement in any landscape. Hardy in north Texas if temperatures are mild and it is grown in a protected location. Very little fertilizer is needed for this plant to perform. Nitrogen fertilizer will cause the leaves to green up and lose the striking purple foliage that is a hallmark of this great plant.

perennials



Flare Perennial Hibiscus

Hibiscus x 'Flare'

USDA Zone 5   

This herbaceous perennial has apple-green foliage and large iridescent fuchsia-red flowers that grow up to 10 inches wide.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 3–4 feet

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: any soil type, including high alkaline clays

Suggested uses: perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and containers

Special notes: Produces large leaves and is a profuse bloomer. It is also self-sterile, which encourages re-bloom. The Flare hibiscus will bloom from summer through the first frost.

Pink Flare and Peppermint Flare Perennial Hibiscus

Hibiscus x 'Pink Flare' and 'Peppermint Flare'

USDA Zone 5   

Part of the Flare Series, these showy perennials have large glowing fuchsia flowers. The offspring have the same superior traits as the original but, their colors are pink and peppermint (white with red stripes). Their maple-like emerald-green foliage is very attractive on compact plants that are practically sterile, which encourages continuous bloom.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 3–5 feet

Plant type: herbaceous perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: any soil type, including high pH clays

Suggested uses: perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and containers

Special notes: These flowers are great grown as complements with Flare, Moy Grande and Lord Baltimore hibiscuses with an expanded color range. Peppermint Flare offers an unusually striking two-tone flower.

Lord Baltimore Perennial Hibiscus

Hibiscus x 'Lord Baltimore'

USDA Zone 5   

This perennial has glossy foliage and large red flowers up to 10 inches wide.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 5 feet

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: prefers neutral to acid soils

Suggested uses: perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

Special notes: The Lord Baltimore performs best in hardiness zone 5. It has attractive foliage, provides stunning color, loves the heat and requires very little maintenance. It also has excellent pest and disease resistance, and works best with medium amounts of water.

Moy Grande Perennial Hibiscus

Hibiscus x 'Moy Grande'

USDA Zone 5   

The giant-flowered rose mallow has the largest flowers of any hardy perennial. These are descendants of the native hibiscus found in Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states. Ying Doon Moy cross-bred a *Hibiscus moscheutos* hybrid with *Hibiscus grandiflorus* to create the largest, open-face hibiscus flower in the world.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 5 feet

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: well-drained soil containing plenty of organic matter and nutrients

Suggested uses: perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

Special notes: Moy Grande will grow up to 5 feet wide, and bloom between May and September. Removing spent flowers and developing seed pods will promote rebloom. Flowers are usually 12 inches wide and have a rose-pink color. Moy Grande hibiscus will perform best in hardiness zone 5.

New Gold Lantana

Lantana camera 'New Gold'

USDA Zone 8b    

The New Gold Lantana is a low maintenance plant with golden yellow flowers. It is drought and heat tolerant, and its reduced fruit set promotes prolific blooming from spring until frost.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 12–24 inches

Plant type: small spreading woody shrub, herbaceous perennial or annual depending on the location

Planting time: spring to summer from containers

Soil type: adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

Suggested uses: accent, bedding, bank cover or patio containers

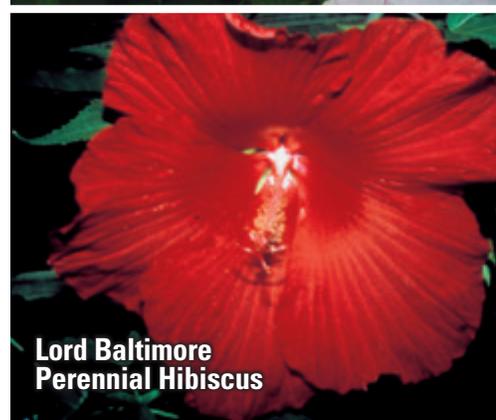
Special notes: When well established, the plants are very drought tolerant and continue to produce bright and attractive blooms, even in the hottest weather. Whiteflies can sometimes be a pest. Prune annuals for best results.



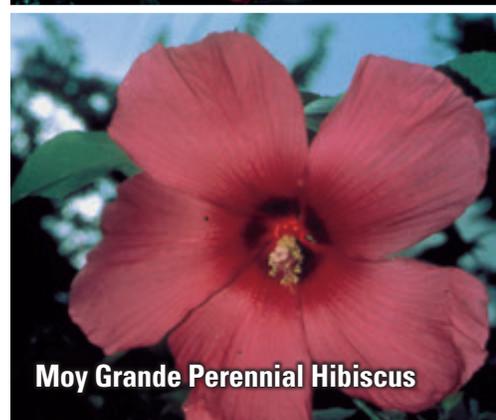
Flare Perennial Hibiscus



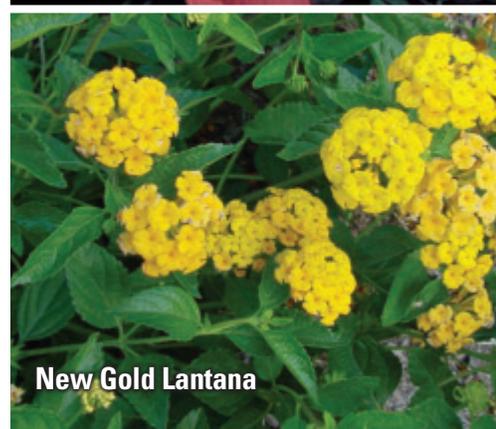
Pink Flare and Peppermint Flare Hibiscus



Lord Baltimore Perennial Hibiscus

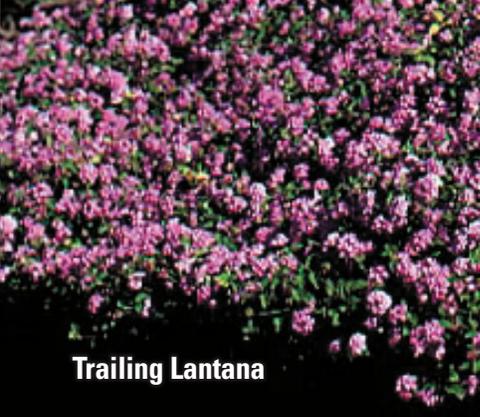


Moy Grande Perennial Hibiscus



New Gold Lantana

Ask a certified nursery professional at your local nursery for Texas Superstars® and support local Texas producers.



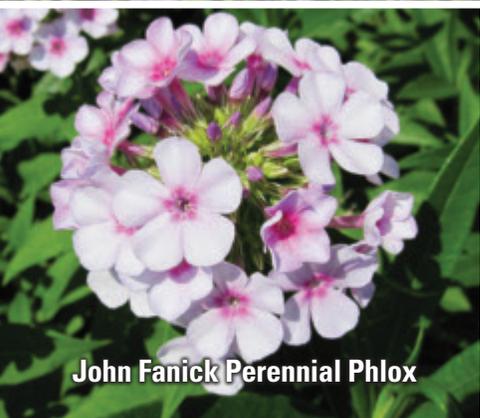
Trailing Lantana



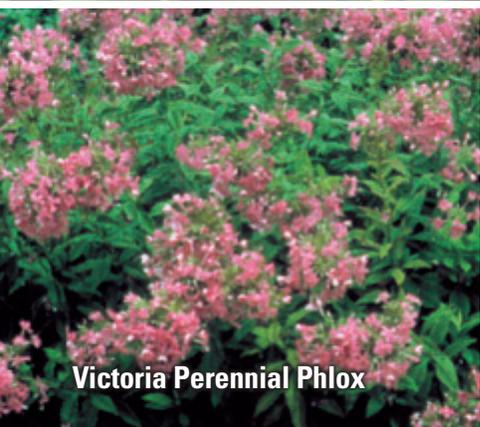
Turk's Cap



Dwarf Mexican Petunia



John Fanick Perennial Phlox



Victoria Perennial Phlox

Trailing Lantana

Lantana montevidensis

USDA Zone 8b   

Beautiful trailing or spreading perennial with a profusion of lavender, purple or white flowers that bloom consistently from spring through frost and attract butterflies. Outstanding heat, wind and drought tolerance.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 1 foot tall, 4 feet wide

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring to summer in containers

Soil type: adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

Suggested uses: mass bedding, ground or bank cover, and as a spiller over the edge of beds above garden walls or in containers

Special Notes: Hardy to zone 8b and resistant to lantana lacebug.

Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus var. *drummondii*

USDA Zone 7b   

A rapidly growing, coarse-textured plant that produces a profusion of "turban-like" flowers in various colors ranging from bright red to pink

to white. Flowers are produced all summer but are especially heavy in the fall. They attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Turk's cap is native to south Texas, where it becomes an established perennial, but in north Texas, it is used as an annual. Turk's Cap is very drought tolerant once established. The cultivar "Pam Puryear" has soft pink flowers and 'Fiesta' is a variegated form with yellow and white splotched leaves.

Exposure: sun or shade; flowers heavier in sun, but the foliage is more attractive with some shade.

Height: 3–6 feet with about equal spread

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: anytime from containers

Soil type: adaptable to most soils

Suggested uses: accent, perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and deciduous hedge

Special notes: Root-hardy perennial in most of Texas, including zone 7b.

Dwarf Mexican Petunia

Ruellia brittoniana
(various dwarf cultivars)

USDA Zone 8   

Under proper growing conditions, dwarf Mexican petunias produce compact, clumping mounds of dark green, lance-shaped leaves and bright, tubular flowers when in full bloom during the hottest part of the summer. When conditions are favorable, they will reseed, but the resulting plants retain the dwarf, clumping character.

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Height: 6–8 inches

Plant type: herbaceous perennial or annual depending on the location

Planting time: spring to summer from containers

Soil type: adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

Suggested uses: accent, small scale groundcover, perennial borders, edging or mixed plantings

Special notes: Dwarf Mexican petunias are very adaptable and will tolerate both wet and dry soils. They prefer full sun but will grow in shade, though flowering will be less. Although dwarf Mexican petunias are drought tolerant once established, they perform best with regular irrigation during droughts and regular feeding of high phosphorus fertilizers.

John Fanick Perennial Phlox

Phlox paniculata 'John Fanick'

USDA Zone 4   

Masses of fragrant, light pink flowers sporting a dark pink eye in the summer highlight this heat and drought resistant perennial. It blooms several weeks later than Victoria phlox and does not lodge as easily as Victoria. It is more disease resistant as well.

Exposure: full sun for best bloom; will tolerate partial shade

Height: 24–36 inches

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: well-drained soil
Suggested uses: specimen and background in perennial gardens and as a cut flower

Special notes: The John Fanick perennial phlox has attractive evergreen foliage with a compact growth habit. This Texas Superstar tolerates heat, drought and powdery mildew, but avoid overhead irrigation with salty water. Plants should be spaced between 24 and 36 inches apart. Cut back in late summer for fall blooms.

Victoria Perennial Phlox

Phlox paniculata 'Victoria'

USDA Zone 4   

This heat and drought resistant perennial sports masses of purplish-pink (magenta) flowers in the summer and in the fall (if cut back after summer bloom occurs).

Exposure: full sun for best bloom; will tolerate partial shade

Height: 24–36 inches

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: well-drained soil

perennials



Suggested uses: specimen and background in perennial gardens

Special notes: The Victoria perennial phlox has an attractive evergreen foliage with a compact growth habit. It is a hardy perennial with showy clusters of magenta pink blossoms. It also has lighter green foliage and a more open growth habit than the John Fanick. This Texas Superstar tolerates heat, drought and powdery mildew, but avoid overhead irrigation with salty water. Plants should be spaced between 24 and 36 inches apart. The ideal hardiness zone is 4.

Cape Plumbago

Plumbago auriculata

USDA Zone 8b   

Cape Plumbago produces profuse blue flowers and thrives in the hot Texas summer. It is sometimes called "sky flower," because of the sky-blue color of its flowers. It flowers from May until the first frost.

Exposure: full and partial sun

Height: 4 feet tall, up to 5 feet wide

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: anytime from containers

Soil type: adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

Suggested uses: container or accent plant

Special notes: Dried flowers should be pruned from the Plumbago to encourage re-blooming and to maintain desired plant shape. It is excellent for attracting butterflies. It can handle hot, humid summers and is reasonably drought tolerant. The imperial Blue variety holds its color well.

Mexican Bush Sage

Salvia leucantha

USDA Zone 8   

A tough, drought tolerant, highly pest resistant salvia with showy spikes of purple and white, or solid purple blossoms that appear in the fall. This works well as a cut flower.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 3–4 feet tall, 3 feet wide

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring or summer from containers

Soil type: adaptable but needs excellent drainage

Suggested uses: accent, bedding and perennial borders

Special notes: Plant these perennials in the southern half of the state. Stems are brittle so protect from high winds.

Henry Duelberg Salvia

Salvia farinacea

USDA Zone 7   

Henry Duelberg is a low-maintenance, heat-tolerant native plant that produces masses of showy blue flowers from spring until the first frost.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 3 feet x 3 feet

Plant type: perennial

Soil type: adapts to most soils

Suggested uses: bedding, containers, xeriscape, perennial border and cut flowers

Special notes: Shearing frequently between bloom cycles will promote bloom development. Henry Duelberg is not preferred by deer.

Mystic Spires Blue Salvia

Salvia longispicata x *farinacea* 'Mystic Spires Blue'

USDA Zone 7   

Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is a compact form of another popular salvia called Indigo Spires. It is also sold as 'Playin' the Blues.' Though shorter than Indigo Spires, it flowers even more freely during the entire growing season. It produces masses of true blue flowers that mix nicely with other annuals and perennials. It is tolerant of heat and humidity and is not bothered by pests, diseases or deer.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 18–30 inches

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring to summer from containers

Soil type: adapts to most soils but needs good drainage

Suggested uses: bedding, containers, perennial border and cut flowers

Special notes: Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is hardy to zone 7 with good drainage. Excess water and fertilizer can result in excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers. If needed, plants can be pruned during the growing season as reflowering occurs quickly. Shoots can be pruned to 12 inches or more in the fall after being killed by freezing, but refrain from pruning to the ground until growth is strong in the spring.

Blue Princess Verbena

Glandularia x hybrida

'Blue Princess'

USDA Zone 7b   

This butterfly-attracting, easy care perennial has masses of beautiful, lavender blue flowers. It is also sold as 'Princess Dark Lavender.'

Exposure: full sun

Height: 12 inches

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: well-drained soil

Suggested uses: bedding plant, containers, baskets, perennial border, and butterfly and hummingbird gardens

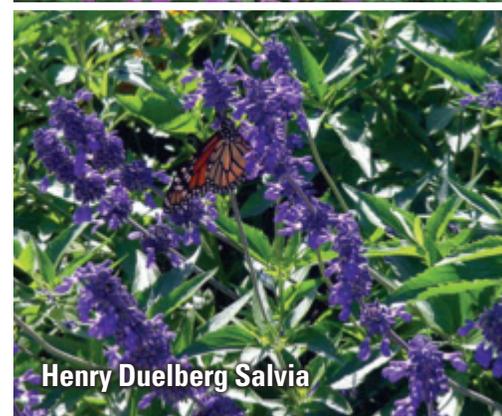
Special notes: The Blue Princess verbena blooms early spring through late fall. Shear between bloom cycles to promote new blooms. Rose Princess is also available.



Cape Plumbago



Mexican Bush Sage



Henry Duelberg Salvia



Mystic Spires Blue Salvia



Blue Princess Verbena

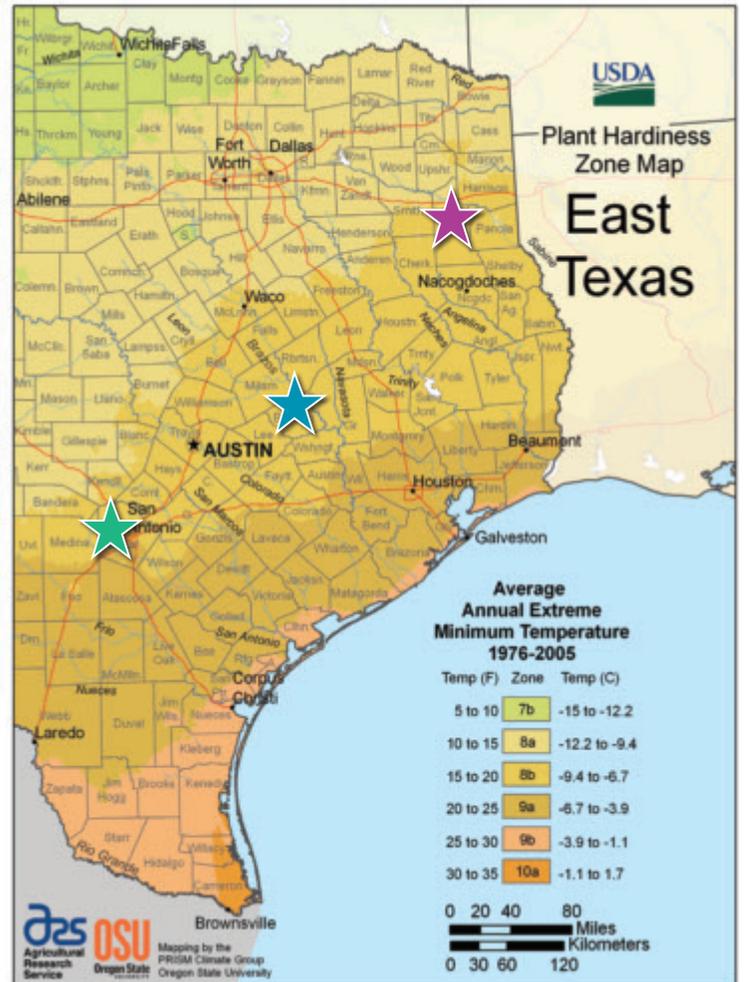
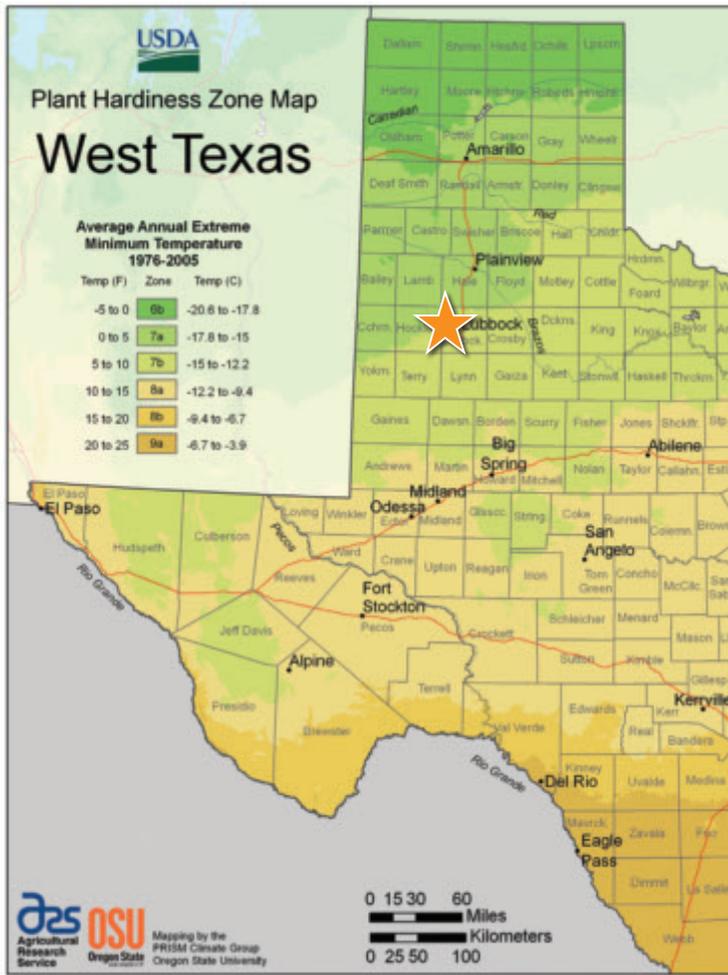
Ask a certified nursery professional at your local nursery for Texas Superstars® and support local Texas producers.



Beautiful Texas Maroon Bluebonnets in containers at a Texas A&M Horticulture Student plant sale.



A landscape setting showing the use of Texas Superstar® plants including Duranta, Mexican Bush Sage, Baby's Breath Euphorbia, and Butterfly Deep Pink Pentas.



USDA hardiness zones

Texas Superstars perform best at the hardiness zones indicated. However, Texas Superstars are widely adapted across the state. The zone indicated is the coldest zone for which a plant is adapted. These plants can also be grown in warmer zones.

Due to the wide diversity in climatic conditions across Texas, some perennial plants may be treated as annuals. Contact your local Extension Agent for advice on which plants will work best in your area.

These are the locations in the state where official Texas Superstar® trial sites are located. They represent parts of Texas with varying rainfall amounts, temperature patterns, and soil types.

- ★ Lubbock
- ★ San Antonio
- ★ College Station
- ★ Overton



Brazilian Red Hots
Alternanthera



Little Ruby Alternanthera



Pride-of-Barbados



Duranta

Brazilian Red Hots Alternanthera

Alternanthera dentata
'Brazilian Red Hots'



Brazilian Red Hots are a dependable selection of the old-time Joseph's Coat that grows with a mounded habit. The attractive, lively, hot pink and rose shaded foliage makes it a delightful addition to any Texas garden. It's an easy to grow plant that prefers partial shade, but it can tolerate the Texas hot summer heat, if planted early in the spring. However, its attractive foliage color is most vibrant when it receives intense sunlight. The plants are somewhat drought tolerant once they are established. Supplemental irrigation in well-prepared soil may be needed to establish the plant. Though not the biggest feature of this plant and often inconspicuous, ball-shaped white flowers spring out above the foliage in the mid-winter in regions where there is no or little frost.

Exposure: prefers partial shade in hot regions but will tolerate full sun well if planted early; can tolerate more sun in the northern part of the state

Height: 24–36 inches tall with a 12–18 inch spread

Plant type: annual in most of Texas as it is sensitive to frost. In frost-free areas, it can be a short-lived perennial.

Planting time: Best in spring after frost; can also be planted in mid-summer or fall if watered adequately for establishment.

Soil type: A well-prepared soil amended with organic material with good drainage is best, but will tolerate poor soils.

Suggested uses: excellent as a stand-alone plant, whether planted as a mass border planting or accenting a repertoire of other popular Texas Superstar selections, such as Cora Vinca, Butterfly Pentas, Serena Angelonia and Baby's Breath Euphorbias. It will also complement combination plantings in containers.

Special notes: Plants benefit from being cut back lightly as days become longer in late spring for a vigorous flush of summer color and possibly again in late summer for fall satisfaction.

Little Ruby Alternanthera

Alternanthera 'Little Ruby'



This is a recent selection that is a smaller, more compact version of the traditional garden plant known as Joseph's Coat. It has a long planting season and can be used as a ground cover where its foliage color blends well with other plants or as a container plant. Foliage is a rich burgundy in full sun. It tolerates and is still attractive in shade but the foliage is more greenish in color.

Exposure: Full sun for the darkest burgundy foliage to partial shade

Height: 12–5 inches by 14–16 inches wide

Plant type: grown as a warm season annual but may be perennial in areas that only experience light frost

Planting time: typically in the spring after danger of frost has passed but may also be planted during the summer and into the fall in warm regions

Soil type: tolerant of soil types; prefers good drainage and a soil rich in organic material

Suggested uses: use as a ground cover or foreground planting, or in containers

Special notes: Plants are very heat tolerant. Burgundy foliage contrasts well with plants that have yellow, gold, or even white and pink blooms.

Pride-of-Barbados

Caesalpinia pulcherrima

USDA Zone 8b   

Pride-of-Barbados is an evergreen shrub or small tree in frost-free climates, a deciduous shrub in zone 9, a returning perennial in zone 8 and an annual in North and West Texas. Pride-of-Barbados dies to the ground following frost or freezing temperatures, but in zone 8b (South Central Texas), it comes back reliable in the middle of spring. Pride-of-Barbados has incredibly showy blossoms of orange and red. The striking orange-red flowers are an attention grabber.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 8–12 feet

Plant type: summer annual, perennial or woody shrub depending upon the severity of winter temperatures

Planting time: spring to early summer

Soil type: very easy to grow in alkaline to acidic, well-drained soils

Suggested uses: use as a specimen or in a mixed shrub border

Special notes: Plants tolerate very high temperatures and drought, but they do not tolerate poorly drained soils. Pride-of-Barbados is best grown in raised beds in humid climates.

Duranta

Duranta erecta

USDA Zone 9   

Also known as Brazilian Sky Flower, is a rapid-growing, dense shrub with small glossy leaves and a profusion of pendulous racemes of small flowers with varying in color from light blue to purple.

Exposure: sun or shade; flowers heavier in sun

per-annuals
Tropical perennials used as an annual



Height: 12–15 feet in South Texas depending on pruning
Plant type: root-hardy perennial in South Texas, but annual or tender perennial in most areas of the state
Planting time: anytime from containers
Soil type: adapts to most soils
Suggested uses: can be used as a container plant or an accent plant in a landscape
Special notes: Some selections fruit heavily, and the plant becomes covered with small, golden ball-like drupes. Must be treated as an annual-root hardy perennial in most parts of Texas, but it will be perennial in South Texas. Brazilian Sky Flower blooms best from summer until the first frost.

Gold Star Esperanza

Tecoma stans 'Gold Star'

USDA Zone 9 🐇💧🐝

This heat-loving, semi-evergreen shrub has golden-yellow ball-shaped flowers that bloom in late spring through fall.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 4 feet

Plant type: root-hardy perennial

Planting time: spring

Soil type: well-drained soil

Suggested uses: containers, flower beds, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

Special notes: Gold Star esperanza is recommended for hardiness zone 9. It has attractive glossy foliage and grows up to 3 feet wide. Gold Star esperanza requires medium amounts of water. Water weekly in lieu of one inch of rain. Immediately remove the fruit (beans) after flowering to promote rebloom.

Firebush

Hamelia patens

USDA Zone 9 🐇💧🐝

Firebush offers real hope to heat-hammered summer landscapes. Once established, firebush is very heat and drought tolerant. Firebush is an evergreen shrub or small tree native to many areas in tropical and subtropical America.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 18–30 inches

Plant type: annual from Central Texas northward, perennial in South Texas

Planting time: set transplants from mid-May through summer months and space one foot apart

Soil type: almost any well-drained soil, even highly alkaline, heavy clays

Suggested uses: mass plantings with white blooming annuals, containers and hummingbird gardens

Special notes: The firebush blooms between June and November with terminal clusters of scarlet red and tubular blossoms with deeper red throats. Its foliage turns to a blood red color in the fall. Firebush does not usually show signs of insect or disease damage when grown outdoors in a full sun location.

Firecracker Jatropha

Jatropha integerrima

USDA Zone 9 🐇💧🐝

This subtropical evergreen shrub has glossy leaves and clusters of star-shaped bright scarlet or vermilion flowers. Jatropha is a spectacular shrub in bloom, which is most of the year in warmer portions of the state and spring to frost in colder locations.

Exposure: Best flowering is in full sun, but plants will remain attractive in partial shade.

Height: In tropical climates, plants may grow 8–10 feet tall, but as patio plants or summer annuals, they are usually 3–5 feet tall.

Plant type: summer annual where winters are cold, woody shrub along the coast and in south Texas

Planting time: spring after danger of frost has past

Soil type: adapted to most well-drained garden soils and can be grown in a variety of potting mixes

Suggested uses: Use as a summer accent where frosts are frequent or in a mixed shrub border where winters are warm. Use as a container plant to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Special notes: Fruit are reported to be poisonous but appear to be seldomly produced in most Texas regions.

Variegated Tapioca

Manihot esculenta 'Variegata'

USDA Zone 11 💧💧

Variegated Tapioca is tropical plant grown as an annual in all but southern-most Texas. The variegated leaves form a chartreuse/yellow pattern. It is a non-blooming plant that offers a tropical flare to summer landscapes.

Exposure: full or partial sun; however, plants are most colorful when grown in full sun

Height: 4 feet tall, up to 5 feet wide

Plant type: annual in all but southern-most Texas

Planting time: spring after last frost

Soil type: requires a well-drained soil or container potting mix; will tolerate a wide range of pH
Suggested uses: container or accent plant

Special notes: Variegated tapioca is a heat lover and does not grow vigorously until the night temperatures are consistently above 60° F. It will exhibit chilling injury when night temperatures dip below 50° F. Keep the growing medium moist, and use mulch if planted in the soil. Plants will grow just as well in alkaline soil as they will in acidic soils. They are somewhat tolerant to foliar salt exposure in the Coastal Bend area.

Thyrallis or Shower-of-Gold

Galphimia glauca

USDA Zone 8b 🐇💧🐝

As the name implies, Shower-of-Gold offers season-long spikes of bright, yellow flowers. Flowers are mostly held at or above the dark-green to blue-green foliage. With periodic pruning, plants develop a dense handsome canopy with enough flowers to draw the eye from a distance.



Gold Star Esperanza



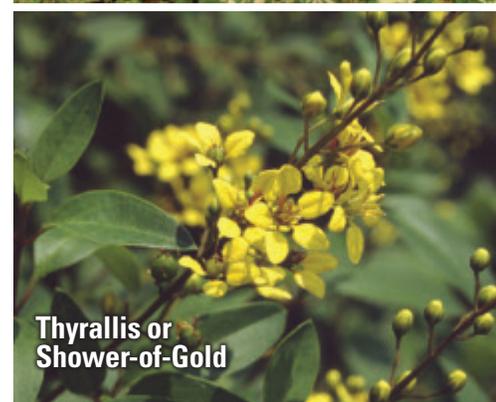
Firebush



Firecracker Jatropha



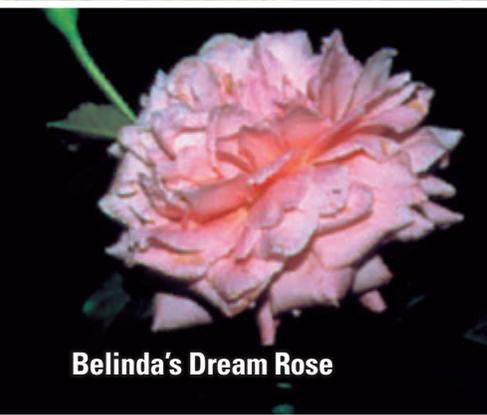
Manihot esculenta
'Variegata' Tapioca



Thyrallis or
Shower-of-Gold



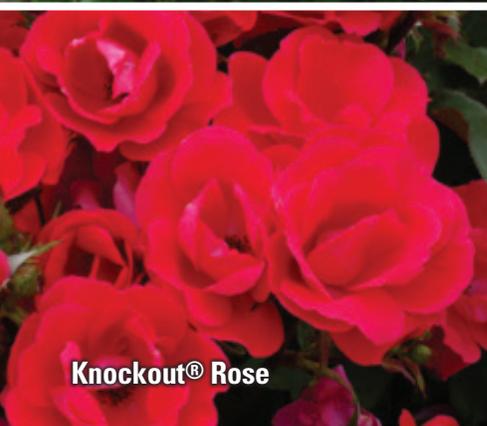
Lynn's Legacy Cenizo



Belinda's Dream Rose



Grandma's Yellow Rose



Knockout® Rose

woody shrubs

Exposure: full sun to very light shade

Height: 3–5 feet

Plant type: woody shrub in South Texas or summer annual in North Texas

Planting time: anytime from containers as a shrub, spring as a summer annual

Soil type: tolerant of most soils as long as they are well-drained

Suggested uses: generally used as an evergreen shrub in warmer portions of Texas; tolerates summer heat as a patio container; nice background for perennial or annual borders in South Texas.

Special notes: This plant blooms whenever temperatures permit. Annual pruning will maintain a denser habit, and plants work well when pruned back as a sub-shrub or herbaceous perennial.

Lynn's Legacy Cenizo

Leucophyllum langmaniae
'Lynn's Legacy'

USDA Zone 8   

Lynn's Legacy (also known as Lowery's Legacy) was selected for its profuse and frequent flower displays. Its sage-green foliage is a wonderful backdrop for the lavender flowers. Compared to most selections of Texas sage, it is not as dependent on changes in relative humidity for flowering and can bloom more often during the course of the summer than other selections.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 5 feet

Plant type: woody shrub

Planting time: anytime from containers

Soil type: tolerant of most soils as long as they are well-drained and not soggy

Suggested uses: general-purpose shrub where a touch of silvery foliage is desired; other uses include as a foundation shrub, in island plantings, xeriscapes or in mixed borders; with appropriate substrate, it can be used in containers on sunny patios

Special notes: Multiple flowering flushes frequently occur during a growing season. Be sure to avoid over watering.

Belinda's Dream Rose

Rosa 'Belinda's Dream'

USDA Zone 7   

A cross between 'Tiffany' and 'Jersey Beauty,' this fast growing shrub is upright and sturdy and has bluish-green foliage. Its blossom is a clean pink, double and high-centered rose in the classic hybrid tea style and has a rich fragrance. Blooms occur in abundance all through the warm months, especially if spent blooms are removed immediately.

Exposure: full sun for best bloom

Height: 5 feet

Plant type: shrub rose

Planting time: fall and spring

Soil type: Well-drained soil is best, but they will grow in high alkaline clay soils.

Suggested uses: shrub border, cut flowers and dried flowers for potpourri

Special notes: Belinda's Dream performs best in hardiness zones 7–9. It has a bush habit and can be as wide as 4 feet. Needs day-long full sun and good air movement over the leaves. Drip irrigation or a soaker hose is recommended. The plant is occasionally attacked by black spot during the cool season, but it is usually vigorous enough to overcome the disease.

Grandma's Yellow Rose

Rosa 'Nacogdoches'

USDA Zone 6   

Grandma's Yellow Rose repeatedly blooms from spring until the first hard frost. Its new leaves have a shade of bronze, then turn dark green. Flowers have a light and spicy fragrance. It is a repeat bloomer from spring until frost and is quite disease resistant.

Exposure: full sun for at least six hours per day

Height: 4–5 feet

Plant type: shrub rose

Planting time: anytime from containers

Soil type: Well-drained slightly acidic soil is best, but it adapts to alkaline clay soils as long as drainage is adequate.

Suggested uses: accent, shrub border with perennials, low hedges and cut flowers

Special notes: These roses can be attacked by black spot during wet periods, mainly in the spring and fall. A few fungicide applications in the spring or during long wet periods will control the disease. Plants tolerate the disease well by readily producing new growth after defoliation.

Knockout® Rose

Rosa 'Radrazz'

USDA Zone 4   

The Knockout® Rose produces fluorescent, cherry-red blooms that begin in spring and continue to provide color until the first frost.



Exposure: full sun
Height: 3–4 feet, but can grow up to 5 feet high and 5 feet wide when mature
Plant type: shrub rose
Planting time: anytime from containers
Soil type: adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with reasonable drainage
Suggested uses: accent, shrub border, rose garden or low hedges
Special notes: The Knockout Rose grows well in planting zones 4 through 9 and is highly tolerant of black spot, powdery mildew and aphids. It is also cold-hardy throughout the state, will grow in a wide range of soils (even highly alkaline clays), and is very heat and drought tolerant once established. The double form is more compact and has more color impact.

Marie Daly Rose

Rosa 'Marie Daly'

USDA Zone 5   

This easy care shrub rose has few thorns and lots of very fragrant, double pink blooms. It offers successive flushes of bloom from spring to frost. Developed for Texas, this rose offers a new color of renowned antique rose 'Marie Pavie', as well as good disease and alkaline soil tolerance.

Exposure: full sun
Height: 3 feet
Plant type: shrub rose
Planting time: fall and spring
Soil type: Well-drained soil is best, but it will grow in high alkaline clay soils.
Suggested uses: cut flowers, dried flowers for potpourri and landscapes
Special notes: Marie Daly Rose performs best in hardiness zone 5. It has a bush habit and can be as wide as 3 feet. It needs daylong full sun and good air movement over the leaves. Drip irrigation or a soaker hose is recommended.

Basham's Party Pink Crapemyrtle

Lagerstroemia indica x *Lagerstroemia faurei*
 'Basham's Party Pink'

USDA Zone 8  

Basham's Party Pink crapemyrtle is one of the best large crapemyrtles for USDA zone 8 and warmer locations in Texas. This beautiful tree-form crapemyrtle can be grown as a single or multiple trunk specimen maturing with beautiful fluted smooth bark, which exfoliates in shallow plates to expose predominantly light tans, gray and silver-gray bark highlighted with some reddish brown under-tones. The graceful canopy is covered in spring to early summer with one or more flushes of large soft lavender-pink terminal flower clusters. The dark green foliage appears to have inherited some resistance to pests and diseases from its *L. faurei* heritage and a lesser propensity for seed pods than some of the other hybrids from its *L. indica* parentage. It was introduced to the nursery trade by the legendary Texas plantsman and nursery professional Mr. Lynn Lowrey in 1965. Makes the 'Basham's Party Pink' the granddaddy of Texas hybrid crapemyrtles and a time tested Texas Superstar®.

Exposure: full sun for optimum flowering
Height: 20–30 feet tall with two-thirds to similar spread
Plant type: Small-to-medium single or multiple stem deciduous tree
Planting time: Fall or early spring planting is best, but plants can be readily established from containers or balled-and-burlap at any time of year with appropriate irrigation.
Soil type: tolerant of all but very alkaline soils as long as the soil is well-drained
Suggested uses: specimen flowering tree, small shade tree, near patios and outdoor entertainment areas, street trees with training, in cut flower arrangements, or in very large landscape containers.
Special notes: Water during establishment and in severe drought. To reduce foliar

disease problems plant where it is mostly sunny and there is good air movement. Avoiding direct irrigation spray on the foliage will also reduce disease incidence and lessen the potential for foliar damage where salty irrigation water is a problem. Plants are cold tolerant in USDA plant hardiness zone 8 and warmer, but they should be used only in protected locations in colder climates. If frozen to the ground in a severe winter, established plants will usually regrow several feet in a single growing season.

Possum Haw Deciduous Holly

Ilex decidua

USDA Zone 5 

This outstanding small native tree requires very low maintenance. It will drop its leaves in fall to reveal showy red or orange berries (on female plants) that remain throughout the winter. Possum Haw attracts songbirds while being heat and drought tolerant.

Exposure: full sun to partial shade
Height: 10–15 feet
Plant type: large deciduous woody shrub or small tree
Planting time: anytime from containers
Soil type: adapts to most soils from acidic to slightly alkaline
Suggested uses: accent, shrub border, fall to winter specimen or as a patio tree
Special notes: Possum Haw tolerates poorly drained soils.

Shantung Maple

Acer truncatum

USDA Zone 6  

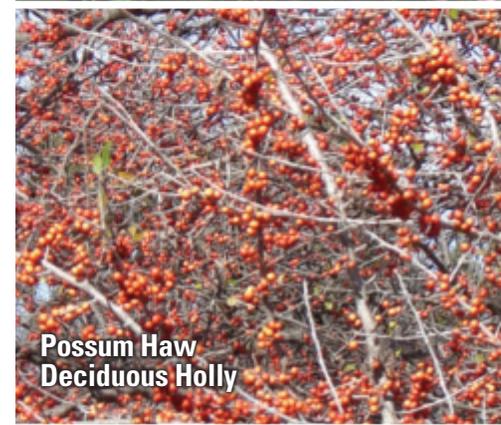
This beautiful maple has a spreading canopy with attractive foliage that turns spectacular red or red-orange in late fall. It is reminiscent of Japanese maple but much tougher.
Exposure: full sun to partial shade
Height: 25 feet
Plant type: ornamental deciduous tree



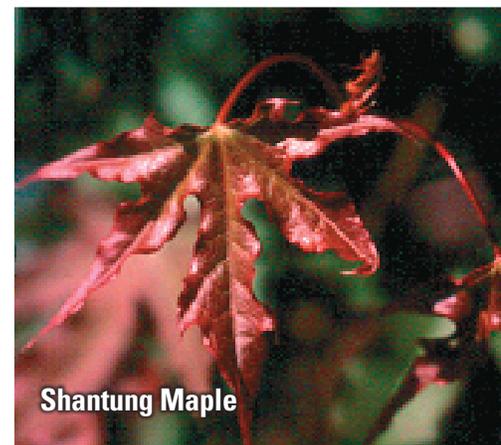
Marie Daly Rose



Basham's Party Pink Crapemyrtle



Possum Haw Deciduous Holly



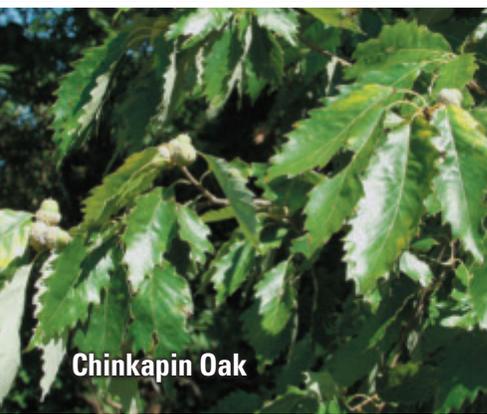
Shantung Maple



trees



Lacey Oak



Chinkapin Oak

Planting time: fall and spring

Soil type: various soil types and tolerates alkaline soils

Suggested uses: shade tree for small yards

Special notes: Shantung maples tolerate heat, however they are not adapted to West Texas. The trunk must be wrapped the first three years to prevent sunscald. Performs best in hardiness zone 6.

Lacey Oak

Quercus glaucoides

USDA Zone 7

This beautiful small oak is native to the Texas Hill Country and has a spreading canopy with attractive bluish-green foliage. Lacey oaks are highly tolerant of heat, drought, alkaline soil and pests. They make wonderful shade trees for smaller yards.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 25 feet

Plant type: deciduous tree

Planting time: fall and spring

Soil type: will survive in well-drained clay soils; grows best in well-drained limestone soils

Suggested uses: Xeriscapes or low water-use landscapes are perfect conditions for growing Lacey oak. Works best as a shade tree in a small-to-medium landscape.

Special notes: The oaks are best adapted to the western two-thirds of the state. Don't water too frequently.

Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

USDA Zone 5

Chinkapin Oak is an attractive medium-to-large shade tree suitable for use in much of Texas. Its distinctive saw-tooth leaves, which resemble those of the chinquapin tree found in the eastern United States, are a rich green and turn from yellow to bronze in fall.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 50–60 feet

Plant type: large deciduous tree

Planting time: anytime from containers

Soil type: adapts to most soils from slightly acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

Suggested uses: shade tree, street tree or park tree

Special notes: It grows in the wild on well-drained bottomland soils and limestone hills near water, but it is adaptable to a range of soils and exposures. It is moderate to fast-growing and develops an open rounded crown as it ages. Chinkapin oak is heat and drought tolerant, which makes the species widely adaptable throughout Texas.

Natchez Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus 'Natchez'

USDA Zone 5

Natchez blackberry is a thornless cultivar out of the University of Arkansas. It is a trailing plant that produces an abundance of large, elongated fruit. The fruit is the largest produced by a thornless cultivar. Fruit quality is firm and outstanding, and it could be a commercial variety.

Exposure: full sun for maximum production

Height: Canes are trailing and can be 6–8 feet tall. Some sort of trellis will be needed in order to keep the canes off the ground.

Plant type: biennial; grow a top the first year, those canes fruit the next year and then they die. The plant sends up new canes each growing season for the next year's crop.

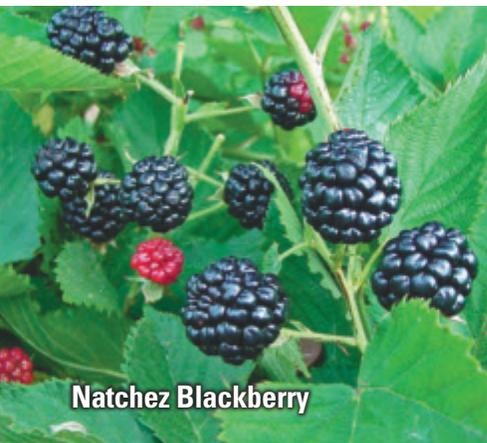
Planting time: Plant dormant root cuttings in early winter or plants in early spring three feet apart.

Soil type: numerous soil types will work as long as they are well-drained. Iron chlorosis may be an issue when soil pH is over 7.8.

Suggested uses: container patio plant or a fruit producing accent bed in the landscape

Special notes: To maintain plant health and vigor, some of the fruit should be removed each growing season. Too much fruit can cause subsequent prima canes to be weak with a poor crop the next year.

trees



Natchez Blackberry



Caricature Plant



specialty plants

Caricature Plant

Graptophyllum pictum

USDA Zone 11

Caricature Plant is an excellent summer annual for a wide range of light conditions from full sun to dense shade. Several new cultivars on the market offer foliage that varies from dark green or chocolate bronze with creamy white centers to tri-color foliage with various combinations of green, white, cream and pink.

Exposure: full sun to dense shade

Height: 2–4 feet as an annual, to 6–8 feet as a tropical shrub
Plant type: summer annual (cold climates) or woody shrub (tropics)

Planting time: anytime from containers as a shrub, late spring for use as a summer annual

Soil type: tolerant of most soils as long as they remain moist during the growing season

Suggested uses: ideal for those transition beds from sunny courtyards to the dense shade of entryways; can also be used in interiorscapes and containers

Special notes: Caricature Plant is very heat tolerant, but it wilts under drought conditions. It is cold sensitive and can be damaged by temperatures much below 55° F.

Moth Orchid

Phalaenopsis

USDA Zone 11 

The moth orchid is one of the best orchids for growing in the home. Clumped orchid plants in small pots are usually the most spectacular bloom producers.

Exposure: place near bright windows with no direct sun

Height: 2 feet

Plant type: sub-tropical indoor plants

Planting time: pot in late spring or early summer after blooming has completed

Soil type: well-draining mix such as fir bark, tree fern fiber, various types of stone, peat moss or combinations; standard potting mixes will kill them

Suggested uses: interior plants to add color to a home or office

Special notes: Keep the temperature above 60° F at night and between 70° F and 82° F during the day. Temperatures below 78° F for three-to-five weeks with good light are needed for initiating flower spikes. Thoroughly water and then let stand and do not water again until nearly dry. Apply a complete fertilizer on a regular schedule during the active growing season to one teaspoon per one gallon at each watering. Potting should

be done in late spring or early summer after blooming is complete.

Satsuma Mandarin

Citrus reticulata

USDA Zone 9  

Satsuma mandarin is one of the most cold tolerant citrus for Texas. The tree has attractive, evergreen foliage and produces white flowers with an awesome fragrance. The fruit is very sweet, juicy, easy-to-peel and usually seedless.

Exposure: minimum of 8–10 hours of sun per day

Height: 8–10 feet high and wide on a rootstock in the ground; 3–4 feet in a container

Plant type: evergreen citrus tree

Planting time: early spring after danger of frost has passed

Soil type: adaptable if well-drained

Suggested uses: accent plant for the patio and containers

Special notes: This plant performs best in hardiness zone 9. It will flower in early spring with fruit ripening in early to late fall. Containers should be at least 20 gallons with good drainage. Incorporate a slow release fertilizer monthly. Containers can be moved in when a severe freeze warning is predicted. In ground plants, you may need some additional protection.

Miho Satsuma Mandarin

Citrus reticulata 'Miho'

USDA Zone 9  

Miho Satsuma produces an attractive evergreen tree with very fragrant flowers in early spring. The fruit ripens in early fall and is very sweet, easy-to-peel and usually seedless.

Exposure: minimum of 8–10 hours per day 5

Height: five feet high and wide; smaller in containers

Plant type: evergreen citrus tree

Planting time: early spring after the danger of frost has passed

Soil type: adaptable if well-drained

Suggested uses: accent plant for the patio and containers

Special notes: This tree performs best in hardiness zone 9. It will flower in early spring with fruit ripening in early to late fall. If using a container, at least a 20 gallon size with good drainage is suggested. Incorporate a slow release fertilizer monthly. Containers can be moved in when a severe freeze warning is predicted. In ground plants may need some additional protection.

Arctic Frost Mandarin Hybrid

Citrus reticulata 'Arctic Frost'

USDA Zone 8  

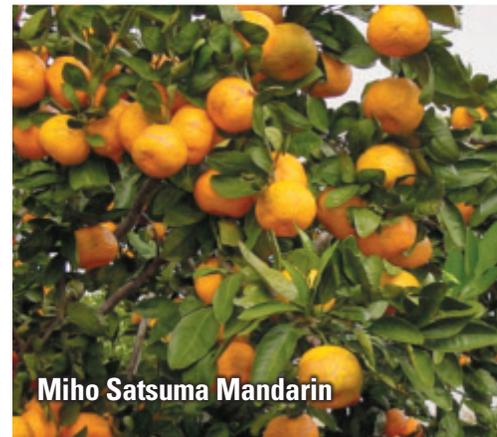
'Arctic Frost' is another Mandarin hybrid resulting from



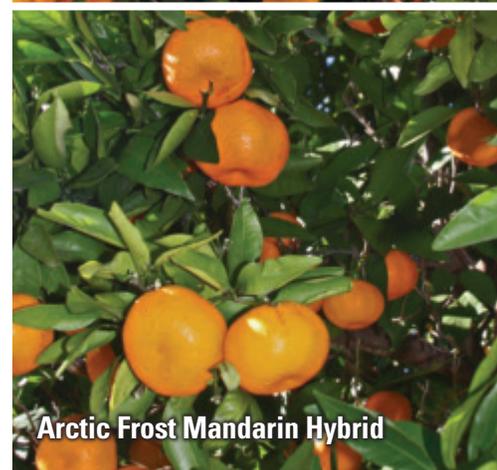
Moth Orchid



Satsuma Mandarin



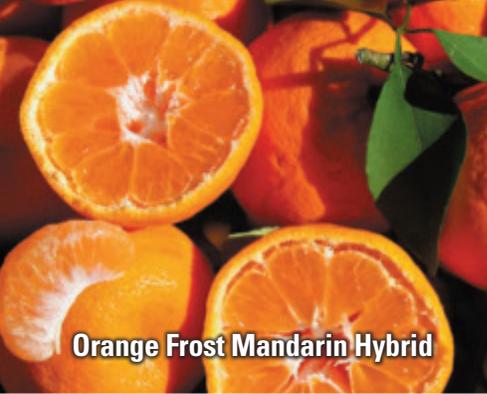
Miho Satsuma Mandarin



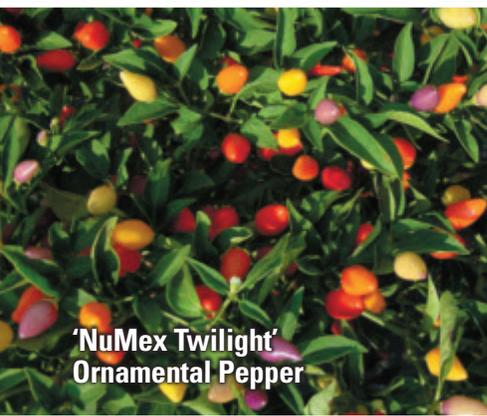
Arctic Frost Mandarin Hybrid



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Orange Frost Mandarin Hybrid



'NuMex Twilight' Ornamental Pepper



'Purple Flash' Ornamental Pepper



Texas Dawn



'Green Magic' Broccoli

a cross between the seedy but cold hardy Changsha tangerine and a very high quality Satsuma. The hybrids are the work of the late Dr. Ying Doon Moy, longtime plant breeder at the San Antonio Botanic Garden before his death in November 2012. The fruit is very sweet and tart, easy-to-peel and only has one or two seeds per fruit.

Orange Frost Mandarin Hybrid
Citrus reticulata 'Orange Frost'

USDA Zone 8 🐇💧💧 Orange Frost Mandarin hybrid is a cross between a very cold hardy Changsha tangerine and a very high quality Satsuma. The fruit is very sweet, easy-to-peel and only has one or two seeds per fruit. More importantly, the tree has more cold hardiness than Satsuma and can be grown a bit further north.

Exposure: minimum of 8–10 hours of sun per day

Height: 8–10 feet high and wide in the ground; 4–6 feet in containers

Plant type: evergreen citrus tree

Planting time: early spring after the danger of frost has passed

Soil type: adaptable if well-drained

Suggested uses: accent plant for backyard and potential patio containers

Special notes: This Texas Superstar® should expand the planting zone for citrus in the ground to as far north as zone 8. Some protection will be required in the establishment phase. The tree will also work well in containers.

NuMex Twilight Ornamental Pepper
Capsicum frutescens 'NuMex Twilight'



A showy ornamental pepper that matures in about 85 days. Plants produce good yields of three-quarter of an inch long by one-half inch wide hot, edible peppers. Peppers grow upright in clusters, are very hot, and change colors from purple to yellow to orange to red when they mature. The effect is very showy against the green stems and leaves and white flowers. New growth, flowers and peppers are continually produced all season long.

Exposure: full sun

Height: 2 feet by 2 feet wide

Plant type: annual

Planting time: from spring through late summer from containers

Soil type: adaptable to good soil type with good drainage

Suggested uses: bedding in vegetable or flower gardens, and in containers

Special notes: These peppers can be started from seed in early spring and set out after all danger of frost has passed. Excellent for mixing vegetables into ornamental flower gardens.

Purple Flash Ornamental Pepper
Capsicum annuum 'Purple Flash'



An exotic-looking ornamental pepper with leaves that are almost black and overlaid with splashes of dark purple and white. Fruit are small and secondary to the foliage for display.

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Height: 12–15 inches
Plant type: annual
Planting time: spring
Soil type: will grow in most well-drained soils and in a variety of potting mixes
Suggested uses: a great vegetable to mix in flower borders, use in mass plantings or in containers
Special notes: Plants are heat and drought tolerant. Fruits are extremely hot to the taste.

Texas Dawn Water Lily
Nymphaea 'Texas Dawn'



USDA Zone 6 Texas Dawn received the International Water Lily Society's American Award in 1990. It can be expected to produce seven to eight blooms at a time by mid-summer. Texas Dawn produces rich yellow flowers with outer petals blushed pink, greenish yellow with pink border sepal and deep yellow anthers. Flower size is 3–8 inches with a lemony fragrance.

Exposure: full sun

Height: flowers grow 3–8 inches above the surface of the water

Plant type: perennial

Planting time: spring to summer when water temperature is 70–85° F

Soil type: heavy clay

Suggested uses: ponds, cut flowers and dry flowers

Special notes: Even though Texas Dawn requires full sun, it is one of a few varieties that can bloom with three hours of sun daily, increasing your landscaping options. Other well-adapted water lily varieties include Clyde Ikins, Colorado, Layde-keri Fulgens, Panama Pacific, Perry's Double White, Red Flare and Star of Siam.

'Green Magic' Broccoli
Brassica oleracea 'Green Magic'

A superb early hybrid variety from Calabria strains that produce high quality, attractive smooth dome heads with tight green beads.

specialty plants



Exposure: full sun

Size: Plants vary between 1–2 feet in height and spread. Heads can weigh between 350–400 gm.

Plant type: annual

Planting time: 'Green Magic' is a hybrid, which matures in 90 days from direct seeding or 60 days from transplanting. Green Magic's superior heat tolerance makes it good for spring and fall crops, although broccoli performs best when it experiences cool growing conditions. Hence, planting date depends on location, but ideally the heads will mature when the temperatures are cool. If planting in spring, plan to harvest before the temperature reaches 80° F; the heads will bolt in high heat. If planting in fall, start 10 to 12 weeks before first frost date.

Soil type: best in a well prepared garden soil

Suggested uses: good for fall and spring crops. Also, the foliage is very ornamental for mixed-use gardens.

Special notes: Good tolerance to downy mildew.

'Tycoon' Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum 'Tycoon'

'Tycoon' is an exceptional large rounded beef slicer tomato variety. The plant is determinate and is known for its heat setting ability as well as its resistance to tomato yellow leaf curl virus. This particular virus has become a major problem in the fall over the past few years as the virus is transmitted by white flies, which become worse in serious drought conditions. In addition, the plant is resistant to Verticillium, Fusarium races one and two, tomato spotted wilt virus, as well as nematodes. The fruit is firm and actually more oblate than round.

Exposure: full sun for optimum production

Size: Plants are 3–4 feet high and 2–3 feet wide. Average fruit size is 10 ounces, but reports up to 1.5 pounds have been recorded. Plant has the capacity of yielding 25 to 30 pounds of high quality marketable fruit.

Plant type: annual determinate type

Planting time: in early spring after the danger of frost has passed and in the summer 80 to 90 days prior to the first freeze in the fall; best to use high quality transplants; if seed is used, it should be started 6 to 8 weeks prior to the planting date

Soil type: numerous types as long as well-drained

Suggested uses: for the garden or commercial planting

'Dwarf Cherry Surprise,' or 'BHN 968' Tomato

Solanum lycopersicum 'BHN 968' (syn. 'Dwarf Cherry Surprise')

'BHN 968' is a determinate plant, which produces an abundant yield of cherry tomatoes. The fruit are one half to three quarter of an inch in diameter and are four times sweeter than regular cherry tomatoes. The plant is resistant to Verticillium, Fusarium, Tobacco Mosaic Virus and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, as well as nematodes.

Exposure: full sun for optimum production

Size: 3–4 feet high and 2–3 feet wide

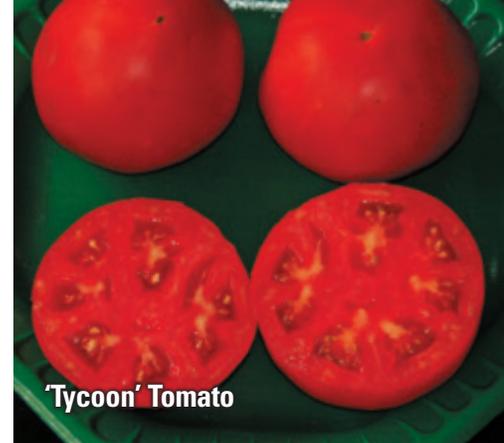
Plant type: annual and determinate

Planting time: in early spring after the danger of frost has passed and in the summer 80 to 90 days prior to the first freeze in the fall; best to use high quality transplants; if seed is used it, should be started 6 to 8 weeks prior to the planting date

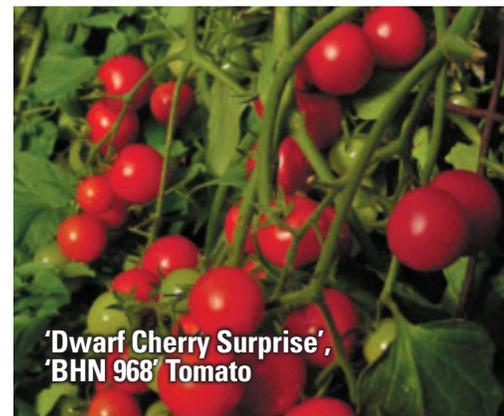
Soil type: numerous types as long as well-drained

Suggested uses: for the garden or commercial planting

Special notes: 'BHN 968' is an outstanding selection for the home garden or accent containers. The naturally short plant stature makes for outstanding yields in a small amount of space. Fruit sweetness and quality is exceptional. These are great for school gardens and children, as the plant will make an abundance of fruit in a short period of time.



'Tycoon' Tomato



'Dwarf Cherry Surprise', 'BHN 968' Tomato



specialty
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TEXAS SUPERSTAR® VIDEOS

Watch the "Texas Superstar® Overview Video" at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUwk7zDONoE>

See Tom Spencer, host of *Central Texas Gardener* on KLRU, interview Brent Pemberton, chair of the Executive Board at Texas Superstar®, about the Texas Superstar® Program at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QAcX5IstCl>

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

USDA Hardiness Zones

This designates the coldest zone where a plant is typically considered cold hardy. Summer annuals do not have a hardiness designation, but winter annuals do. Please see the maps in the center spread of this booklet for a key to the hardiness zones. The maps were prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Water Use

The number of raindrop symbols denotes the level of water use that can be expected for a particular plant. Even the most drought tolerant plants need adequate moisture for initial establishment.

-  = Low expected water use
-  = Moderate expected water use
-  = High expected water use

Texas Superstar® Deer-resistant plants

The designated deer symbol indicates "deer resistant plants." Deer tend to avoid some plants and relish others. While no plant can be guaranteed to be "deer-proof," some types of plants are less appealing to the animals. Highly recommended by many gardeners is a good deer repellent to prevent deer damage for a six month time period after planting for plant establishment.

Attractive to pollinators

The bee symbol indicates that the designated plant is attractive to pollinators. This could include honey bees, bumble bees, or any other pollinators that are commonly found in gardens of a particular area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

TEXAS A&M
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