

FBMG Demonstration Gardens

Native Garden

The mission of the FBMG Native Garden is to display a wide variety of plants native to Texas that can be easily grown in home gardens throughout Fort Bend County.

A native plant is broadly defined as one that was present in the landscape before the arrival of European settlers. It can also be defined more narrowly as one that grows only within 50 miles of a chosen location.

Native plants offer many benefits to the home gardener:

- ▶ They make water conservation easier to achieve
- ▶ They are generally low maintenance once established
- ▶ They survive and flourish in difficult growing conditions
- ▶ They require little or no fertilizer or chemicals to stay healthy
- ▶ They support biodiversity and are inviting to birds, bees, butterflies and beneficial insects

Native plants can easily be added to a suburban garden. Start by replacing your least favorite plant(s) with a native, or tuck some in where there is a little extra space. Put a native in a 'nothing grows there' spot. Create a mini Monarch Waystation by planting 1 native milkweed and 4 native nectar plants together.

As with all plants, it is important to choose native plants that will grow in the conditions you have in your yard. Selecting the right plant for the right place greatly increases success rates.

Many smaller local nurseries have native plants. Check out the following website for more information on finding native plants suitable to the growing conditions in Fort Bend County:
<https://npsot.org/wp/houston/native-plant-info/>

For more information on native plants:

- ▶ Native Plant Society of Texas: www.npsot.org
- ▶ Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Database: www.wildflower.org
- ▶ Search the Internet more effectively. Type in the Latin name of the plant plus the term 'Texas native'.
E.g. *panicum virgatum* Texas native

The Native Garden is in a constant state of change. This small landscape vibrates with patches of color throughout the year as plants come and go, and blossoms brighten then fade. Come and visit the garden at different times of the year to see how native plants can fit into your home landscape.

List of plants in the Texas Natives Garden

★ Annuals

- ★ American Basketflower (*Centaurea americana*)
- ★ Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
- ★ Texas Bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*)

★ Grasses

- ★ Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
- ★ Gulf Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- ★ Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

★ Milkweeds

- ★ Antelopehorns Milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*)
- ★ Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- ★ Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*)
- ★ Slim Milkweed (*Asclepias linearis*)
- ★ Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*)
- ★ Zizotes Milkweed (*Asclepias oenotheroides*)

★ Palms

- ★ Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*)

★ Perennials

- ★ Baby's Breath Aster (*Aster subulatus*)
- ★ Black Samson Coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*)
- ★ Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*)
- ★ Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)
- ★ Butterfly Gaura (*Oenothera lindheimeri*)
- ★ Chile Petin (*Capiscum annum*)
- ★ Clustered Bushmint (*Hyptis alata*)
- ★ Coneflower (*Rudbeckia*)
- ★ Corpus Christi Fleabane (*Erigeron procumbens*)
- ★ Fall Aster (*Symphotricum oblongifolium*)
- ★ Gayfeather Liatris (*Liatris spicata*)
- ★ Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*)
- ★ Gulf Coast Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*)
- ★ Heartleaf Skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*)
- ★ Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- ★ Lyreleaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*)
- ★ Mealy Cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*)
- ★ Missouri Ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*)
- ★ Perfumeballs (*Gaillardia suavis*)
- ★ Phlox (Phlox)
- ★ Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*)

★ Perennials cont'd

- ★ Prairie Verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*)
- ★ Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
- ★ Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)
- ★ Scarlet Pea (*Indigofera miniata*)
- ★ Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
- ★ Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye (*Viguiera stenoloba*)

- Southern Blue Flag (*Iris virginica*)
- Stiff Greenthread (*Thelesperma filifolium*)
- Texas Onion (*Allium texanum*)
- Texas Spiderwort (*Tradescantia humilis*)
- Twistleaf Yucca (*Yucca rupicola*)
- Virginia Iris (*Iris virginica*)
- Wedelia, Zexmenia (*Wedelia hispida*)
- Woolly Stemodia (*Stemodia lanata*)
- Yellow Wild Indigo (*Baptisia sphaerocarpa*)

Succulents

- Manfreda (*Manfreda variegata*)

Shrubs

- American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)
- Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*)
- Cenizo (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)
- Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)
- Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides* Hayek)
- Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus drummondii*)
- White Mist Flower (*Eupatorium havanense*)
- Yellow Bells Esperanza (*Tecoma stans*)

Trees

- Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*)
- Texas Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*)
- Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)