

# 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, American Fringe Tree

**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 Sweetpire, Red Chokecherry, Spider Lilly, Fragrant Sumac, Parsley Hawthorn, Yellow Sophora

**Ten Perennials For Sun:** Purple Coneflower, Scarlet Sage, Maximilian Sunflower, Kansas Gayfeather, Eastern Gamagrass, Switch Grass, Indian Grass, Pink Evening Primrose, Guara, Giant Coneflower

**Ten Perennials For Shade:** Turk's Cap, Strawberry Bush, Cardinal Flower, Farkleberry, Blue Mistflower, Big Thicket Hibiscus, Gulf Coast Penstemon, Spring Obedient Plant, 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, Climbing Milkweed, Virginia Dutchman's Pipe

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

**Ten Groundcovers For Shade:** Pigeonberry, Coralberry, Wood Fern, Spiderwort, Maidenhair Fern, Horseherb, Carolina Elephant Foot, Partridgeberry, White Avens, 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 with 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 [WWW.NPSOT.org/houston](http://WWW.NPSOT.org/houston)

