

## *Xeric Plant List* “Survivors List”

Xeric plants use significantly less water than traditional landscaping plants. Here we provide a list of native and ornamental plants that grow well in the Austin area and use very little water *once established*. Please note that in central Texas the establishment period for most perennial plants is about 2 years, sm-med trees take 3-5 years while large trees could take up to 10 years. Central Texas is a difficult environment for many plants too dry for many eastern plants, but too wet for some desert plants. When we do get rain it pours, it’s all or nothing a lot of the time! Even the toughest, lowest water plants will need some water through the growing season if we go more than 2 weeks or so without rain. Mature established plants could go longer without water but may not bloom or they may even start to show drought stress and start to dieback.

Site planning is very important. Familiarize yourself with the drainage patterns of your site making sure to avoid planting in areas where water flows during periods of high rain. When the drainage of the soil is an issue (as in heavily compacted or clay soils) materials such as *expanded shale*, *compost* and *gypsum* should be added to increase drainage and soil porosity. Another option is to create a raised bed with a much more-well draining soil. This keeps water away from the crown of the plant decreasing the risk of rot. With plants that aren’t quite so picky about the drainage, simply elevating the crown a few inches above the soil level will suffice. The exposed roots are then mulched, not only protecting them but evening out the ground level caused by the elevated crowns.

\* Denotes plants Native to Texas.

### **Trees:**

Anacacho Orchid - *Bauhinia lunarioides* \*  
 Arizona Cypress - *Cupressus arizonica* \*  
 Arroyo Sweetwood - *Myrospermum sousanum*  
 Catclaw Acacia - *Acacia greggii* \*  
 Chitalpa - *Chilopsis x Catalpa*  
 Desert Willow - *Chilopsis linearis* \*  
 Eve's Necklace - *Sophora affinis* \*  
 Flameleaf Sumac - *Rhus lanceolata* \*  
 Golden Ball Lead Tree - *Leucaena retusa* \*  
 Guajillo - *Acacia berlandieri* \*  
 Huisache - *Acacia farnesiana* \*  
 Little-leaf Ash - *Fraxinus greggii* \*  
 Mesquite, Honey - *Prosopis glandulosa* \*  
 Mesquite, Screwbean - *Prosopis pubescens* \*  
 Mexican Olive - *Cordia boissieri* \*  
 Mexican Redbud - *Cercis canadensis var. Mexicana* \*  
 Pomegranate - *Punica granatum*  
 Retama - *Parkinsonia aculeata* \*  
 Texas Ash - *Fraxinus texensis* \*  
 Texas Ebony - *Ebenopsis ebano* \*  
 Texas Mountain Laurel - *Sophora secundiflora* \*  
 Texas Persimmon - *Diospyros texana* \*

### **Small Trees / Shrubs:**

Agarita - *Berberis trifoliolata* \*  
 Apache Plume - *Fallugia paradoxa* \*  
 Bird of Paradise, Mexican - *Caesalpinia mexicana*

Bird of Paradise, Yellow - *Caesalpinia gilliesii*  
 Cacti, Cold Hardy - *spp.*  
 Cotoneaster - *Cotoneaster spp.*  
 Evergreen Sumac - *Rhus virens* \*  
 Fragrant Mimosa - *Mimosa borealis* \*  
 Hop Bush - *Dodonaea viscosa*  
 Leatherleaf Acacia - *Acacia craspedocarpa*  
 Pride of Barbados - *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*  
 Texas Kidneywood - *Eysenhardtia texana* \*  
 Texas Sage/Cenizo - *Leucophyllum frutescens* \*  
 Velvet-pod Mimosa - *Mimosa dysocarpa* \*  
 Woolly Butterfly Bush - *Buddleja marrubifolia* \*

### **Perennials/ Annuals:**

Agave - *Agave spp.*  
 Artemisia - *Artemisia spp.*  
 Bamboo Muhly - *Muhlenbergia dumosa*  
 Beargrass - *Nolina texana* \*  
 Blackfoot Daisy - *Melampodium leucanthum* \*  
 Chocolate Daisy - *Berlandiera lyrata* \*  
 Creeping Silver Germander - *Teucrium aroanium*  
 Damianita - *Chrysactinia Mexicana* \*  
 Dalea, Black - *Dalea frutescens* \*  
 Dalea, Gregg's - *Dalea greggii* \*  
 Desert Globe Mallow - *Sphaeralcea ambigua*  
 Devil's Shoestring - *Nolina lindheimeriana* \*

**Perennials/ Annuals:** (continued)

Dyckia - *Dyckia spp*  
 Flame Acanthus - *Anisacanthus quadrifidus* \*  
 Firecracker Fern - *Russelia equisetiformis*  
 Four-nerve daisy - *Tetranervis scaposa* \*  
 Frogfruit - *Phyla nodiflora* \*  
 Gay Feather - *Liatris spp.*  
 Gaura - *Gaura lindheimeri* \*  
 Ghost plant - *Graptopetalum spp.*  
 Gopher Plant - *Euphorbia rigida*  
 Heartleaf Skullcap - *Scutellaria ovate* \*  
 Hesperaloe - *Hesperaloe spp.*  
 Iris - *Iris spp.*  
 Jerusalem sage - *Phlomis fruticosa*  
 Jimson Weed - *Datura wrightii* \*  
 Lavender - *Lavandula angustifolia*  
 Manfreda - *Manfreda spp.*  
 Mexican Feather Grass - *Nassella tenuissima* \*  
 Mexican Oregano - *Poliomintha longiflora*  
 Missouri Primrose - *Oenothera macrocarpa* \*  
 Nierembergia - *Nierembergia spp.*  
 Rock Penstemon - *Penstemon baccharifolius* \*  
 Penstemon, Hill Country - *Penstemon triflorus* \*  
 Portulaca - *Portulaca spp.*  
 Priarie Verbena - *Glandularia bipinnatifida* \*  
 Prickley Pear - *Opuntia spp.*  
 Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea* \*  
 Purple Heart - *Setcreasea pallida*  
 Pyramid Bush - *Melochia tomentosa* \*  
 Rosemary - *Rosmarinus officinalis*  
 Rosewood, Desert - *Vauquelinia corymbosa*  
 Sage, Autumn - *Salvia greggii* \*

Sage, Cedar - *Salvia roemariana* \*  
 Sage, Clary - *Salvia sclarea*  
 Sage, Garden - *Salvia officinalis*  
 Sage, Grey Shrub - *Salvia chamaedryoides*  
 Sage, Jim - *Salvia clevelandii*  
 Santolina - *Santolina spp.*  
 Sedge, Creek - *Carex blanda* \*  
 Sedge, Meadow - *Carex perdentata* \*  
 Sedge, Texas - *Carex texensis* \*  
 Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye - *Viguiera stenoloba* \*  
 Shrubby Boneset - *Ageratina havanensis* \*  
 Silver Pony Foot - *Dicondra argentea* \*  
 Sotol, Texas - *Dasyilirion texanum* \*  
 Sotol, Wheeler - *Dasyilirion wheeleri* \*  
 Square-bud Primrose - *Calylophus berlandiera* \*  
 Stonecrop - *Sedum spp.*  
 Sunflower, Bush - *Simsia calva* \*  
 Sunflower, Maximillian - *Helianthus maximillianii* \*  
 Texas Betony - *Stachys coccinea* \*  
 Texas Lantana - *Lantana urticoides* \*  
 Wavy Scaly Cloak Fern - *Astrolepis sinuata* \*  
 Wooly stemodia - *Stemodia lantana* \*  
 Yucca - *Yucca spp.*  
 Zexmenia - *Wedelia texana* \*

**Vines:**

Alamo Vine - *Merremia dissecta* \*  
 Coral Honeysuckle - *Lonicera sempervirens* \*