

Benefits of Using Native Plants

What are native plants?

Native plants are local and occur naturally without human help in a given area. Many have thrived there for centuries. There are different types of native plants, including flowers, shrubs, trees, grasses and vines that you can use in your landscape.

Why are they beneficial?

Native plants produce flowers, fruits, and seeds throughout the year. They create a beautiful, natural look and attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies to your yard.

Native plants are well suited to our climate and soil conditions. Once these plants become established, they require less watering and need no chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides to thrive. When used in the correct conditions, they also require little maintenance.

Compared to exotic plants, natives can better withstand drought and are more resistant to attack by insects and diseases. They can also limit the chances of invasive species overtaking your yard.

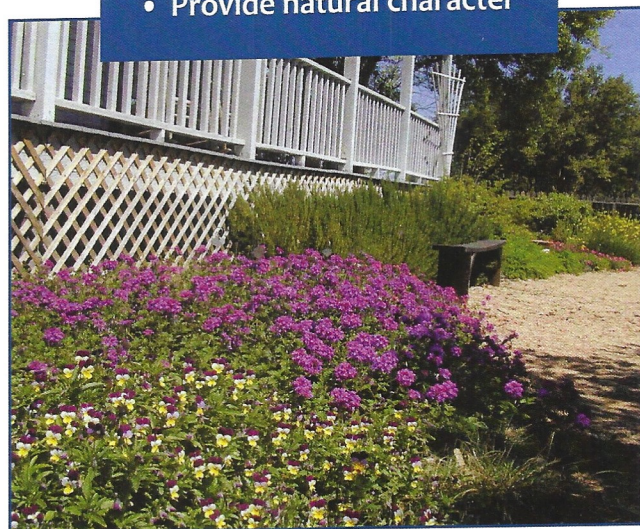
Adapted plants

Some nonnative plants are adapted to Gulf Coast conditions and offer many of the same benefits as do our native plants. WaterSmart landscapes use native and adapted noninvasive plants to help conserve water, protect water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife.



Native plants:

- Need little maintenance
- Save water
- Save money
- Create wildlife habitat
- Provide natural character



Native plants to try in your landscape

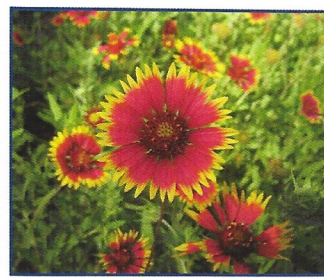
Flowers



Black-eyed Susan



Bluebonnet



Indian blanket



Purple coneflower

Grasses



Gulf muhly



Little bluestem

Shrubs



Esperanza



Texas lantana

Trees



Drummond red maple



Sweetbay magnolia

Vines



Crossvine



Passion flower

For more native plant suggestions, visit [WaterSmart Landscapes for the Upper Texas Gulf Coast](#), the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's [Native Plant Database](#), and the [Earth-Kind Plant Selector](#).

Photos by Chris LaChance and Aggie Horticulture

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