

City of Austin Xeriscape Plant List

SHADE TREES	Exposure	Size	Comments	Deer Resistant	WWL Rebate	Flowers or showy fruit	Freezes
Evergreen or semi-evergreen							
Arizona Cypress		25'-40'	blue gray foliage, triangular shape	X	W		
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>							
Deodar Cedar		40'-50'	fine texture, needs well drained soil	X	W		
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>							
*Escarpment Live Oak		30'-50'	preferred for West Austin		W		
<i>Quercus fusiformis</i>							
*Live Oak		30'-50'	oak wilt susceptible		W		
<i>Quercus virginiana</i> or							
Montezuma Cypress		40'-75'	fine texture, slow growth in dry conditions	X	W		
<i>Taxodium mucronatum</i>			not for small yards				
Monterrey, Mexican White Oak		30'-40'	medium size leaves, handsome tree		W		
<i>Quercus polymorpha</i>							
Texas Palm		20'-30'	tall attractive palm; most winter hardy		W		
<i>Sabal texana</i>							
Deciduous							
American Elm		50'-80'	large tree, rough bark, can withstand clay soils		W		
<i>Ulmus americana</i>							
*Bald Cypress		50'-100'	large tree, tolerates wet soil, not for small yards				
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>							
*Big Tooth Maple		20'-30'	Red and gold leaves in fall		W		
<i>Acer grandidentatum</i>							
*Bur Oak		50'-60'	large oak, majestic, very adaptable	all young trees	W	X	
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>				must be protected			
*Cedar Elm		50'-60'	upright habit, yellow fall color		W		
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>							
Chinese Pistache		30'-40'	fall color, compact when older		W	X	
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>							
*Chinquapin Oak		30'-50'	tall, slender form		W		
<i>Quercus Muhlenbergii</i>							
Drake Elm		20'-30'	nearly evergreen, drought tolerant		W		
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake'							
*Lacey Oak		20'-30'	Bluish-green small leaves, good for small yard		W		
<i>Quercus glaucooides</i>							
*Pecan		60'-80'	nut producing		W	X	
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>							
*Texas Ash		40'-50'	fast growing		W		
<i>Fraxinus texensis</i>							
*Texas Red Oak		25'-50'	red orange fall color, susceptible to oak wilt				
<i>Quercus buckleyi texana</i>							
*Western Soapberry		30'-40'	showy winter fruit, yellow fall color		W	X	
<i>Sapindus Drummondii</i>							

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SMALL TREES							
Evergreen or semi-evergreen							
*Bird of Paradise		10'-12'	yellow and red flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i>							
**Cherry Laurel	Understory	25'-30'	screening plant, wildlife food		W		
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>							
*Flowering Senna		10'-12'	dark green leaves, yellow flowers			X	F
<i>Cassia corymbosa</i>							
**Mexican Poinciana		15'-20'	lemon yellow flowers throughout the growing season	X	W	X	
<i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i>							
**Mountain Laurel	Understory	15'-20'	fragrant flowers, small tree	X	W	X	
<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>							
Southern Wax Myrtle		6'-12'	multi-trunked tree	X	W		
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>							
**Yaupon Holly	Understory	15'-20'	red berries in winter, small tree, shade tolerant	X	W	X	
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>			many varieties available				
Deciduous							
*Anacacho Orchid Tree	Understory	6'-12'	small white flowers			X	
<i>Bauhinia congesta</i>							
Bradford Pear		25'-30'	showy white, spring flowers, fall colors		W	X	
<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'</i>							
Carolina Buckthorn		to 25'	understory tree, red berries for wildlife; fall color; requires good drainage		W		
<i>Frangula caroliniana</i>							
Chitalpa		20'-25'	showy orchid-like flowers		W	X	
<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>							
Crape Myrtle		25'-30'	summer flowers, many varieties		W	X	
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>							
*Desert Willow		15'-25'	open form, summer flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>							
**Eve's Necklace	Understory	to 25'	delicate leaves and flowers		W		
<i>Sophora affinis</i>							
**Flameleaf Sumac	Understory	15'-20'	red fall color, food for wildlife	XX	W	X	
<i>Rhus copallina and glabra</i>							
*Golden Leadball Tree		12'-15'	sweet smelling flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Leucana retusa</i>							
**Kidneywood	Understory	10'-15'	fragrant white flowers, small tree	X	W	X	
<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>							
**Mexican Buckeye	Understory	10'-15'	pink flowers, unusual fruit, shade tolerant	X	W	X	
<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>							
**Mexican Plum	Understory	15'-25'	small round tree, fruit for wildlife		W	X	
<i>Prunus mexicana</i>							
Mexican Poinciana		10'-15'	yellow flowers in summer		W	X	
<i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i>							
Pomegranate		15'	bright orange flowers		W	X	
<i>Punica granatum</i>							

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*•Possomhaw Holly	Understory	15'-20'	female plants have red berries in winter	X	W	X	
<i>Ilex deciduos</i>							
Pride of Barbados		up to 10'	showy orange flowers			X	F
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>							
Red Buckeye	Understory	up to 20'	Glossy green leaves, red flowers			X	
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>							
*•Roughleaf Dogwood	Understory	15' X 15'	wide multitrunks	X	W		
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>							
*•Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	Understory	12'-15'	red fall color, slow growing		W		
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>							
*Smoke Tree		10'-15'	smoke-like blooms, fall color	X	W	X	
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>							
*Texas Persimmon		15'-25'	smooth wood, fruit stains	X	W	X	
<i>Diospyros texana</i>							
*Texas Pistachio		20'	excellent hedge, white flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Pistacia texana</i>							
*•Texas Redbud	Understory	20'-25'	glossy leaves, pink flowers in spring	X	W	X	
<i>Cercis canadensis var. 'Texensis'</i>							
Vitex, Lilac Tree		15'-20'	open habit, blue flowers in summer	X	W	X	
<i>Vitex Agnus-castus</i>							
SHRUBS	Exposure						
Evergreen & semi-evergreen							
*Agarita	sun	3'	prickly leaves, edible berries in spring	XX	W	X	
<i>Berberis trifoliata</i>							
Agave (Century Plant)	sun	6'	very large with long spines		W	X	
<i>Agave sp.</i>							
Aspidistra, Cast Iron Plant	shade	2'	long green leaves	XX			
<i>Aspidistra lurida</i>							
*Barbados Cherry	sun or shade	6'	evergreen above 25 degrees				
<i>Malpighia glabra</i>							
*Bear Grass	sun or shade	1'	grasslike native	XX	W	X	
<i>Nolina texana</i>							
Burford Holly	sun or shade	6'	glossy dark green leaves, red fruit; dwarf varieties	X	W		
<i>Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii'</i>							
Bush Germander	sun or shade	4'	silver leaves, blue flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>							
Cotoneaster							
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	sun	4'	grayleafed or green leafed varieties	X	W	X	
Dwarf Yaupon Holly	sun or shade	4'	requires no pruning	X	W		
<i>Ilex vomitoria 'nana'</i>							
*Evergreen Sumac	sun or shade	8'	dark green leaves	X	W	X	
<i>Rhus virens</i>							
Fragrant (Aromatic) Sumac	sun or part shade		striking fall color, wildlife food;	x	W		
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>		6'					
Glossy Abelia	sun or shade	6'	small pink or white summer flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>							

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*Gregg Sage	sun or shade	4'	available in most colors	X		X	F
<i>Salvia greggii</i>							
Indian Hawthorn	sun	4'	pink or white flowers, compact shrub	X	W	X	
<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>							
Jerusalum Sage	sun	3'-4'	unusual yellow flowers	X			
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>							
Juniper	sun	varies	varied shapes, sizes, and color of leaves	X	W		
<i>Juniper sp.</i>							
Nandina	sun or shade	1-6'	different sizes available, may seed in the wild	X	W	X	
<i>Nandina domestica</i>			dwarf varieties preferred				
Oleander	sun	6'	summer flowers, large shrub, may freeze	XX		X	F
<i>Nerium oleander</i>							
Primrose Jasmine	sun	10'	very large, for hanging over walls or cliffs.	X	W	X	
<i>Jasminum Mesnyi</i>							
*Red Yucca	sun	2'	coral or yellow flower spike	X	W	X	
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>							
Rose, Mutabilis, other old roses	sun	6'-8'	large, drought tolerant rose		W	X	
<i>Rosa 'Mutabilis'</i>							
Rosemary	sun	2-4'	herb, aromatic leaves, upright or prostrate	XX	W	X	
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>							
*Texas Sage, Cenizo	sun	4-6'	lavender flowers, gray-green leaves	XX	W	X	
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>							
St. John's Wort	sun or part shade	4'	showy yellow flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i>							
Soft-leaf yucca	sun	4'	less thorny, showy white flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Yucca recurvifolia</i>							
*Texas Sotol	sun	4'	long blade-like leaves, serated edges	X	W	X	
<i>Dasyliirion texanum</i>							
*Twistleaf yucca	sun	2'	low growing, white flower stalks	X	W	X	
<i>Yucca rupicola</i>							
Wooly Butterfly Bush	sun	4'	silver foliage, small orange flowers, needs good drainage	x	W	X	
<i>Buddleja murrubifolia</i>							
Deciduous							
Althea, Rose of Sharon	sun	6'	showy summer flowers		W	X	
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>							
*American Beautyberry	sun or shade	6'	purple fruit in fall, wildlife food		W	X	
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>							
*Arrowwood	sun or shade	to 15'	slow growing	X	W	X	
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>							
Artemisia	sun or part shade	2'	large, low growing, silver leaves	XX	W		
<i>Artemisia 'Powis castle'</i>			other varieties available				
Barberry	sun	2'	thorny with colored leaves				
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>							
*Black Dalea	sun	3'	purple summer flowers	X	W	X	
<i>Dalea frutescens</i>							
Butterfly Bush	sun	4'-6'	flowers in many different colors		W	X	

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<i>Buddleja Davidii</i>							
*Coralberry, Indian Currant	sun or shade	3'	red berries, spreading habit				
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>							
Creeping Lantana	sun	1'	purple, white or other colors	X		X	F
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>							
*Flame Acanthus	sun or shade	3'-4'	hummingbird and butterfly plant			X	F
<i>Anisacanthus Wrightii</i>							
Mexican Firebush	sun	3'	fiery leaves and flowers			X	F
<i>Hamelia patens</i>							
Rock Rose	sun or part shade	3'-4'	quarter-size pink flowers all summer			X	
<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>							
Pomegranate, Dwarf	sun	6'	orange, yellow or white blooms with fruit		W	X	
<i>Punica granatum 'nana'</i>							
*Texas Lantana	sun	4'	summer color, many varieties			X	F
<i>Lantana horrida and L. camara</i>							
Turk's Cap	shade	4'	small red flowers and berries	X		X	F
<i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i>							
*Woolly Butterfly Bush	sun	4'	interesting orange flowers, gray foliage		W		
<i>Buddleia murrubifolia</i>							
Yellow or Orange Bells	sun	6'	summer color	X		X	F
<i>Tecoma stans</i>							
PERENNIALS Non-woody plants that live two years or more.							
Batface Cuphea	sun	2'	red and purple flowers look like a bat			X	F
<i>Cuphea llavae</i>							
*Black-eyed Susan	sun or shade	2'	large yellow flowers	X		X	F
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>							
*Blackfoot Daisy	sun	6"	well drained soil	X		X	
<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>							
Bulbine	sun	1'	orange, yellow flowers, aloe like leaves			X	
<i>B. frutescens or caulescens</i>							
Bush Morning Glory	sun	6'	tall tender shrub			X	F
<i>Ipomea leptophylla</i>							
*Butterfly Weed	sun	3'	tender perennial, reseeds			X	F
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>							
*Cedar Sage	sun or shade	1'	red flowers	X		X	F
<i>Salvia roemeriana</i>							
Cigar Plant	sun	2'-4'	tubular yellow/orange flowers			X	F
<i>Cuphea micropetala</i>							
*Copper Canyon Daisy	sun	2'	yellow daisy like flowers	XX			
<i>Tagetes lemmonii</i>							
*Coreopsis	sun	1'	perennial form of annual favorite	X		X	
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>							
*Damianita	sun	1'-2'	yellow daisy like flowers	X		X	
<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i>							
Daylily	sun or shade	2'	some varieties prefer part shade			X	F
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>							

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Fall Aster	sun or shade	2'	purple daisy flowers in fall			X	
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>							
Fan Flower	sun to partial shade	1'	spreading tender perennial				F
<i>Scaevola aemula</i>							
Flame Acanthus	sun to partial shade	2'	small orange flowers, reseeds	X		X	F
<i>Anisacanthus wrightii</i>							
*Gayfeather	sun	2'	flowers in heat of summer			X	F
<i>Liatris spp.</i>							
*Gaura	sun	2'	tall pink and white flowers				
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>							
*Hinckley's Columbine	shade	1'-2'	old fashioned favorite			X	
<i>Aquilegia Hinckleyana</i>							
*Hymenoxys	sun	6"	small, compact habit	X		X	
<i>Hymenoxys scaposa</i>							
Bearded Iris	sun	2'	well drained soil	X		X	
<i>Iris sp.</i>							
Iris, Butterfly, African	sun	2'-3'	yellow or white flowers			X	
<i>Dietes vegeta (Moraea iridioides)</i>							
Lamb's Ears	sun	1'	well drained soil, fuzzy leaves	X			
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>							
*Mealy Blue Sage	sun	2'	improved varieties available of native favorite	X		X	F
<i>Salvia farinacea</i>							
Mexican Bush Sage	sun	3'-4'	large tender shrub with purple spires	X		X	F
<i>Salvia leucantha</i>							
Mexican Honeysuckle	sun	2'	orange hummingbird plant			X	F
<i>Justicia spicigera</i>							
Mexican Marigold Mint	sun or shade	2'	deer resistant, fragrant perennial	XX		X	F
<i>Tagetes lucida</i>							
Mexican Oregano	sun	3'	purple flowers on large tender shrub	XX		X	F
<i>Poliomintha longiflora</i>							
*Milfoil, Yarrow	shade	1'	old fashioned favorite, colors available	XX		X	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>							
Blue mistflower	sun or shade	2'-3'	fuzzy lavender blooms attract butterflies, spreads readily			X	
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>							
Pigeonberry	part or full shade	1'	small flowers and glossy red berries			X	
<i>Rivina humilis</i>							
Pink Skullcap	sun or shade	6"	small, compact habit	X		X	
<i>Scutellaria suffretescens</i>							
Plumbago	sun	2'	blue or white flowers	X		X	F
<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>							
*Prairie Verbena	sun	6"	purple native verbena	X		X	
<i>Verbena bipinnatifida</i>							
*Primrose, Missouri, Silverleaf	sun	6"	yellow buttercup			x	
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>							
*Purple Coneflower	sun or shade	2'	large flowering native	X		X	
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>							

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Russian Sage	sun	2'	lacey leaves and blue flowers	X		X	F
<i>Perovaskia atriclipifolia</i>							
*Sage, Scarlet	sun or shade	1'	dry, shade	X		X	F
<i>Salvia coccinea</i>							
Sage, Germander	sun	3'	small gray leaves, blue flowers	X		X	
<i>Salvia chamaedyoides</i>							
Sage, Indigo Spires	sun	3'	blue flowers	X		X	F
<i>Salvia 'Indigo Spires'</i>							
Shrimp Plant	sun or shade	3'	old fashioned favorite			X	F
<i>Justica brandegeana</i>							
*Texas Betony	sun or shade	1'	coral colored flowers on salvia like plant	X		X	F
<i>Stachys coccinea</i>							
*Turk's Cap	sun or shade	3'-4'	shade tolerant native, red flowers			X	F
<i>Malvaviscus arboreus 'Drummondii'</i>							
*Wild Petunia	shade	2'	Katie' varieties compact, not so invasive can be invasive by seed or runners.	X		X	F
<i>Ruellia nudiflora</i>							
*Zexmenia	sun or shade	1'-2'	yellow daisy flowers	X		X	F
<i>Wedelia hispida</i>						X	
GROUNDCOVERS	Low growing alternatives to turfgrass.						
Asian Jasmine	sun or shade	to 12"	will climb trees, may burn in full sun				
<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>							
Blue Rug Juniper	sun	2-3"	slow growing	XX			
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>							
English Ivy	shade	4"	drought tolerant once established, will climb trees	X			
<i>Hedera helix</i>							
*Frog Fruit	sun	3"	spreads rapidly	X		X	
<i>Phyla incisa</i>							
*Greg Dalea	sun	4"	well drained, silver foliage	X		X	
<i>Dalea greggii</i>							
*Horse Herb	sun or shade	3"	invasive, small yellow flowers			X	X
<i>Calyptocarpus vialis</i>							
Japanese Honeysuckle	sun or shade	to 2'	can be invasive, use on slopes for erosion control.			X	
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>							
Leadwort Plumbago	sun or shade	to 6"	bright blue flowers			X	
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>							
Liriope	sun or part shade	6-24"	purple spike flowers, clump-like foliage			X	
<i>Liriope muscari</i>							
Monkey or Mondo Grass	sun or part shade	4"-6"	tufted grass-like groundcover	X			
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>							
Mountain Pea	sun or part shade	4"-6"	Evergreen, small blue flowers			X	
<i>Orbexilum pedunculatum</i>							
Oregano	sun or part shade	3"	Evergreen edible herb	X			
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>							
Periwinkle	shade	6"-12"	does not climb, slower growing			X	
<i>Vinca minor, V.major</i>							
Purple Heart Wandering Jew	sun or part shade	6"-12"	purple leaves and flowers			X	F

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<i>Tradescantia pallida</i> "Purple Heart"						
Sinaloa Sage	sun or part shade	6"	purple tinged leaves and electric blue flowers			X
<i>Salvia sinaloensis</i>						
Santolina	sun	6"-12"	green or gray, well drained soil	X		X
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus and virens</i>						
Sedges	sun or shade	4"-6"	grass like plants	X		
<i>Carex texensis, C.perdentata</i>						
Shore Juniper	sun	6"-12"	may require more water, spreading	X		
<i>Juniperus conferta</i>						
Silver Ponyfoot	sun	2"-3"	interesting gray foliage			
<i>Diachondra argentea</i>						
*Stonecrop	sun	4"	rock garden plant			X F
<i>Sedum sp.</i>						
*Trailing Lantana	sun or shade	6"	purple or white, strong smelling	X		X F
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>						
Wedelia	sun or shade	6"	trailing, yellow flowers			X
<i>Wedelia trilobata</i>						
Ornamental Grasses	Tall grasses grown for their attractive seed heads or foliage.					
Bamboo Muhly	sun, part shade		tall, bushy growth	XX		F
<i>Muhlenbergia dumosa</i>						
*Big Bluestem	sun		bluish leaves turn rust colored in fall	X		F
<i>Andropogon gerardi</i>						
*Big Muhly	sun		tall, blue green leaves	XX		F
<i>Muhlenbergia Lindheimeri</i>						
*Bushy bluestem	sun		rust colored seed heads in fall	X		F
<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>						
Dwarf Fountain Grass	sun		ornamental with tufts of white seed heads	X		F
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>						
*Gulf Muhly, Pink Muhly	sun		pink feathery seed heads in fall	XX		X F
<i>Muhlenbergia cappilaris</i>						
*Indian Grass	sun		tall, seed heads in fall	XX		F
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>						
*Inland Sea oats	shade		weeping growth habit	X		F
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>						
*Little Bluestem	sun		two foot blue leaves	X		X F
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>						
Maiden grass	sun		tall, different varieties available	XX		F
<i>Miscanthus sp.</i>						
Mexican Feather Grass	sun		weeping habit	X		F
<i>Stipa tenuissima</i>						
Side Oats Gramma	sun		State grass of Texas, easy to grow from seed.	X		F
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>						
*Switch Grass	sun		up right, tall habit	X		X F
<i>Punica virgatum</i>						
W-WaterWise Landscape Rebate			*Understory-will grow under the shade of large trees			

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X-some deer resistance (nothing is completely deer proof)		All grasses freeze to the ground. Trim in spring for new growth.			
XX-more deer resistance		For information on vines see www.growgreen.org			
F--freezes to the ground, but comes back up in spring		For information about native wildflowers see www.wildflower.org			
* Texas Native					
See our web site www.cityofaustin.org/watercon for more complete information.					