Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife  
TAMU Nature Guides Edition

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People value nature

- Nature = “very important”
  - Natural sounds
  - Health benefits
  - “Nature deficit disorder”
  - Safe air and water
Nature?
Nature?
Nature?
What is nature?

Functioning, healthy ecosystem: Habitat.

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Reading the Land

Wildlife Responds to Plants

Plants Respond to Environment

Plants Respond to Wildlife

Environment Responds to Plants
Think Ecosystem!
“Tradition?”
Reward:

Caterpillars = Butterflies
Remember...?
Habitat
Habitat basics

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
  - Adults
  - Nesting
Food
Mexican Plum

- Early nectar
- White to pink flowers
- Shade tolerant
- Small ornamental
Texas Redbud

- Early bloom
- Seeds and nectar
- Small tree
- Different varieties
Turk’s Cap

- Likes shade
- Hummingbirds!
- Butterflies!
- Apple-like fruit
Coral Honeysuckle

- “Evergreen” vine
- Hummingbirds!
- Well-mannered
- Coral-colored fruit
- 3 years to establish
Scarlet sage

- Note: cultivars
- Annual (sets seeds)
- Hummingbirds!
- Shade tolerant
- Birds (seeds)
- Can be groundcover
Kidneywood

- Small tree
- Grows fast!
- Blooms April – October
- Fragrant
- Pollinator magnet
Coral bean

- Sun – part shade
- Hummingbird magnet
- Dies back in winter - trim
- Thorns
Little bluestem

- Drought tolerant
- Promotes native wildlife
- Holds the soil
- Key component of Texas prairies and savannahs
Lindheimer Muhly

- Seeds (birds, small mammals)
- Nesting material
- Nesting area
- Some water improves appearance

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Why not exotics?

- **Needy**
  - Require chemicals
  - Require supplemental water
  - Require vigilance

- **Weedy**
  - Rapid reproduction
  - No natural controls
  - Take over habitat
Why not exotics?
Water

- Fresh, clean
- Accessible
- Shallow
- Vegetation
Shelter

- Weather, predators
- Roost, nest
Shelter: Cavities
Habitat is:
• Food
• Water
• Shelter
Texas Wildscapes
Show your support for wildlife!

Conservation License Plate = $30
Support for Recovering America’s Wildlife Act = Priceless