**Common Name:**  Frostweed  
*Verbesina virginica*

- **Plant Type:** Biennial  
- **Light Requirement:** Part shade/shade  
- **Water Requirement:** Low/medium  
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance:** High  
- **Height:** 3 ft  
- **Width/Spacing:** 3 ft  
- **Flower Color:** White  
- **Blooming Period:** August thru November  
- **Plant Form or Habit:** Herb  
- **Foliage Color and Texture:** Deciduous  
- **Butterfly or bird attracter:** Butterflies  
- **Deer Resistant:** High  
- **Plant Use:** Border Plant. Ground cover for hillsides or hot exposed areas

Frostweed, *Verbesina virginica*, is truly an exceptional nectar source for butterflies. Along with the Liatris species, it is one of the few plants that bloom in late summer, the hottest part of the year, and continue blooming until frost.

Pipevine Butterflies, Monarchs and Great Purple Hairstreaks are a few of the many butterflies that love the bountiful nectar of the Frostweed. It has been selected as a monitoring plant by Monarch Watch because of its importance as a nectar source for the Monarch butterfly. The flowers form a white disc 3-6 inches across providing a mini buffet table for the butterflies. This biennial also known as white crownbeard ranges in height from 3-6 ft tall.

It is a stately robust plant and can dominate the area that it is planted in. It seems to love growing under mature live oaks and pecan trees and can be found growing throughout Texas in shade to part shade and in areas that are dry to moist. Its best use is in naturalized landscapes and you will be rewarded in the fall by the butterflies that will flock to it in droves.

This easy-to-grow Verbesina lends stately, dark green leaves and white, autumn flowers to the dappled shade found at the edges of woodlands, where it can form sizable colonies with its spreading rhizomes. Each stem has soft, fleshy green flanges running longitudinally down its length. When winter weather brings ice, the stems exude water that freezes into fascinating shapes, hence its common name Frostweed. This plant is best suited for naturalizing rather than formal landscapes. The ice crystals formed on the stems of this and other plant species have been given many names - among them: ice ribbons, ice flowers, ice fringes, ice fingers, ice filaments, ice leaves, frost flowers, frost ribbons, frost freaks, frost beards, frost castles.


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Common Name: Germander - American  
*Teucrium canadense*

Plant Type: Perennial  
Light Requirement: Part Shade  
Water Requirement: High  
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High  
Height: 3 to 4 feet  
Width/Spacing: 4 to 5 feet  
Flower Color: Dark blue  
Blooming Period: Summer to fall  
Plant Form or Habit: Evergreen round shrub  
Foliage Color and Texture: Grey green with silvery undersides, 1 inch long  
Butterfly or bird attracter:  
Deer Resistant: Yes  
Plant Use: Rock garden, shrub for low hedge or a foundation plant in a perennial garden  

Cultivation: The preference is full or partial sun, moist conditions, and a fertile loamy soil. American Germander can tolerate poorly drained conditions, but not much drought. It is occasionally bothered by foliar disease, particularly powdery mildew, when the plant is under stress, but not to the same degree as Wild Bergamot and other susceptible members of the Mint family.

Range & Habitat: This is a common native plant that occurs in every county of Illinois (see Distribution Map). Habitats include moist black soil prairies, edges of bottomland forests, thickets, moist meadows along rivers, edges of marshes, and around seeps. American Germander can also be found in more developed areas, such as abandoned fields, partially shaded vacant lots, poorly drained waste areas, and along ditches near roads and railroads.

**Soil Description:** Sandy Sandy Loam Clay Loam Clay, Medium Loam Caliche type, Limestone-based Gypseous  
**Conditions Comments:** The dense flower spikes can be quite a show, especially when a good sized clump is planted. Plants spread on their own over time by rhizomes and may become aggressive if not kept in check periodically. Prefers moist or shallow, submerged soils. Nice cut flower.

Source of data:  
[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/germander.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/savanna/plants/germander.htm)
Common Name: Germander - creeping

*Teucrium aroanum*

- **Plant Type:** Perennial
- **Light Requirement:** Sun
- **Water Requirement:** Low
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance:** High
- **Height:** 4 to 6 inches
- **Width/Spacing:** 2.5 ft spread
- **Flower Color:** Pink
- **Blooming Period:** Summer, early fall
- **Plant Form or Habit:** groundcover
- **Foliage Color and Texture:** Silver, Evergreen
- **Butterfly or bird attracter:** Bees
- **Deer Resistant:** Yes, also rabbits

2-3" tall x 18-24" wide. Gray creeping germander blooms with fragrant honey scented pink flowers in summer that are held over equally fragrant thin linear gray leaves. The plant is an excellent small scale groundcover for hot, sunny sites in well drained soil. Drought resistant/drought tolerant plant (xeric).

Source of data: [http://www.highcountrygardens.com/teucrium-aroanum](http://www.highcountrygardens.com/teucrium-aroanum)
**Common Name:** Mexican Honeysuckle

*Justica spicigera*

- Plant Type: Perennial
- Light Requirement: Sun/part shade
- Water Requirement: Low
- Heat/Drought Tolerance: Very High
- Height: 4 ft
- Width/Spacing: 4 ft. wide
- Flower Color: Orange
- Blooming Period: Summer to winter
- Plant Form or Habit: Shrub
- Foliage Color and Texture: Evergreen
- Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds
- Deer Resistant: Yes
- Plant Use: Border, container plant

Mexican Honeysuckle is a small shrub that isn't fussy, blooms most of the year, and is attractive to hummingbirds. With yellow-green leaves and bright orange flowers, Mexican honeysuckle grows 2 to 4 feet tall and spreads 3 to 6 feet wide. The soft, velvety leaves become larger in partial shade locations. Clusters of bright orange, narrowly tubular flowers appear almost any time of the year.

Mexican Honeysuckle prefers light shade to full sun exposure. It is fairly drought tolerant, but looks better and grows larger when given regular supplemental water in the summer. It has a moderate to fast growth rate and is not particularly fussy about soil. It grows equally well in a loose, amended soil or in native, unimproved soil. The primary requirement is good drainage. Water weekly in summer, every other week in the winter.

Source: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/coastalplants/justiciaspic.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/coastalplants/justiciaspic.html)

**Common Name**: Mountain Pea
*Orbexilum pedunculatum*

- **Plant Type**: Groundcover
- **Light Requirement**: Sun/part shade
- **Water Requirement**: Low
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance**: Very High
- **Height**: 12 in
- **Width/Spacing**: 2 ft. wide
- **Flower Color**: Purple
- **Blooming Period**: Spring
- **Plant Form or Habit**: Groundcover
- **Foliage Color and Texture**: Deciduous/evergreen
- **Butterfly or bird attracter**: Deer Resistant
- **Plant Use**: Groundcover, Loose-textured, fast-growing, spreading groundcover; good substitute for Asian Jasmine; limited commercial availability; shear occasionally to promote compact growth

Common Name: Rock Rose, Rose pavonia

*Pavonia lasiopetala* Scheele

**Malvaceae (Mallow Family)**

**USDA Native Status:** Native to U.S.

- **Plant Type:** Perennial
- **Light Requirement:** Sun/part shade
- **Water Requirement:** Low
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance:** High
- **Height:**
- **Width/Spacing:**
- **Flower Color:** Pink, yellow
- **Blooming Period:** April - November
- **Plant Form or Habit:** Shrub
- **Foliage Color and Texture:** Velvety, scalloped
- **Butterfly or bird attracter:** Hummingbirds, butterflies, months
- **Deer Resistant:** Moderate
- **Plant Use:** Pavonia makes an excellent choice for landscaping. Able to survive the summer heat, its profusion of brilliant flowers adds a colorful touch to a dry landscape. Attractive, Blooms ornamental, Easily grown, Perennial garden.

A small shrub, usually woody at the base only, with stems up to 4 feet tall. Found in shallow soil on limestone, in rocky places in woodlands, and at the edges of thickets. Leaves with petioles sometimes as long as the blade; blade up to 2 1/2 inches long, but mostly shorter, ovate to 3 lobed, with a pointed or blunt tip, flat or slightly lobed base, coarsely toothed or wavy margins, dark green on the upper surface and lighter on the lower. Flowers showy, rose colored, roughly 1 1/2 inches wide with a yellow column formed by the pistil and stamens, appearing from spring to fall. Fruit a 5-lobed capsule with remnants of the flower at its base, separating into 5 units at maturity.

**Soil Description:** Prefers well-drained, limestone soils. Also Medium Loam Rocky, Limestone-based, Sandy, Sandy Loam, Clay Loam, Clay, Caliche type.

**Conditions Comments:** Herbaceous stems rise from a woody base. Pink hibiscus-like flowers. Velvety, scalloped leaves. The flowers attract hummingbirds.

Common Name: Penstemon – Brazos/Gulf Coast

*Penstemon tenuis*

Light Requirement: Sun/par shade  
Water Requirement: Moist  
Height: 1-½ ft.  
Width/Spacing: 18 inches  
Flower Color: Purple  
Blooming Period: March thru June  
Plant Form or Habit: Herbaceous perennial  
Foliage Color and Texture:  
Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds  
Deer Resistant:  
Plant Use: Perennial garden, Blooms ornamental, Showy

Purple blooms adorn the flower spikes of *Penstemon tenuis* like little bells. This species makes a fabulous cut flower. Native to coastal and riverine environments in southeastern North America from southeastern Texas to Mississippi and north to Arkansas, it grows well in moist perennial beds and borders, where it has the potential to reseed freely. It is good to plant in combination with Yellow columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*), which, though native to streamside environments in southwestern North America, has similar requirements and bloom period.

Source of data: [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PETE3](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PETE3)
Common Name: Penstemon - Husker Red  
*Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red'*

Light Requirement: Full Sun  
Water Requirement: Low  
Height: 2 to 3 feet.  
Width/Spacing: 1 to 2 feet.  
Flower Color: White  
Blooming Period: Spring to early summer  
Plant Form or Habit: Herbaceous perennial  
Foliage Color and Texture: Maroon color  
Butterfly or bird attracter: Butterflies, birds, hummingbirds, bees  
Deer Resistant: Yes  
Plant Use: Perennial garden, Blooms ornamental, Showy

Grow in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Needs full sun for best foliage color. Avoid wet, poorly-drained soils

This penstemon cultivar is a clump-forming perennial which typically grows 2-3' tall. Features white (sometimes with a pink blush), two-lipped, tubular flowers borne in panicles atop erect, rigid stems. Flowers bloom mid-spring to early summer. Leaves are maroon (hence the cultivar name). Basal leaves are elliptic and stem leaves are lance-shaped to oblong. Penstemon in Greek means five stamens (four are fertile and one is sterile). Penstemon is sometimes commonly called beard tongue because the sterile stamen has a tuft of small hairs. Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year (1996).

**Problems:** No serious insect or disease problems. Root rot can occur in wet, poorly-drained soils. Leaf spots are occasional problems. Flowering can be quite profuse and support is sometimes necessary.

**Uses:** Mass in sunny borders. Also effective as accent or specimen.

Beautiful, lettuce-like, deep red leaves give rise to thick spikes of white flowers. Butterflies visit the flowers for nectar and songbirds such as cardinals and goldfinch eat ripe seed from the flower stems in fall and winter.

Source of data: [http://www.mobot.org/GARDENINGHELP/PLANTFINDER/plant.asp?code=I630](http://www.mobot.org/GARDENINGHELP/PLANTFINDER/plant.asp?code=I630)
Common Name: Penstemon, Mexican Blue
*Penstemon amphorellae*

Light Requirement: Full Sun to part shade
Water Requirement: Moderate
Height: 15 to 18 inches.
Width/Spacing:
Flower Color: Light Blue
Blooming Period: Spring
Plant Form or Habit: Herbaceous perennial
Foliage Color and Texture:
Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds
Deer Resistant:
Plant Use: Perennial garden, Blooms ornamental, Showy

This low, sprawling perennial begins its floral display in late spring, producing 15 to 18-inch tall spikes of large, light blue flowers. Fine-textured light green leaves provide a nice backdrop for the soft blue flowers. This fast-growing native of Coahuilla, Mexico prefers full sun to part shade exposures, and requires moderate irrigation to look its best. It often reseeds in landscape

Source of data: [http://www.mswn.com/media/info_sheets/penstemon_amphorellae.pdf](http://www.mswn.com/media/info_sheets/penstemon_amphorellae.pdf)
Common Name: Penstemon, Rock

Botanical Name: Penstemon baccharifolius

Plant Type: Perennial shrub
Light Requirement: Sun, part shade
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Flower Color: Red
Blooming Period: June – Sept.
Plant Form or Habit: Shrub
Foliage Color and Texture: Semi-evergreen
Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds

Clustered spikes of cherry-red, tubular flowers line the 1-1 1/2 ft. stalks of this almost shrubby perennial. Baccharis-leaf beardless or rock penstemon’s dark-green leaves are thick and toothed, and sometimes are quite hairy.

From 2000 to 7000 feet of elevation, rocky slopes, limestone crevices and bluffs, and seemingly soilless cracks in limestone ledges provide the required sharp drainage for baccharis-leaf penstemon in the Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos of Texas and south into Mexico. This is a densely branched subshrub with herbaceous growth above, which becomes woody at its base. It may be erect or somewhat sprawling. Its 1- to 2-inch-long, thick, smooth or fuzzy leaves show small teeth along the margin. Inch-long straight tubular scarlet flowers open along the stalk from spring through summer. Baccharis-leaf penstemon makes a desirable rock garden plant given excellent drainage and roots shaded from the late afternoon sun with mulch or rocks. In winter it may die to the ground or need to be strongly cut back to promote a bushy habit. It is browsed by deer, sheep and goats.

**Soil Requirements:** alkaline


[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/penstemonbacchar.htm](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/penstemonbacchar.htm)
Common Name: Rose Campion
*Lychnis coronaria*

Light Requirement: Sun
Water Requirement: Dry to medium
Height: 18 to 40 inches.
Width/Spacing:
Flower Color: Magenta, white, red
Blooming Period: Late spring early summer
Plant Form or Habit: perennial
Foliage Color and Texture: Silver grey
Butterfly or bird attracter:
Deer Resistant:
Plant Use: Perennial garden, Blooms ornamental, Showy

A native of Europe, rose campion (*Lychnis coronaria*) is a perennial in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 5 through 8, where winters are relatively mild. The plant produces round, carnation-like flowers of magenta, white or red, depending on the cultivar. Blooms appear in late spring and early summer on stalks that rise above the silvery-green foliage.

Rose campion is easy to grow in poor, dry soils. It does well in limey or calcareous soils and actually may do better and live longer in poor soils than in rich, loamy soils!

**LIGHT:** Rose campion does best in full sun but tolerates partial shade.

**MOISTURE:** Rose campion tolerates dry soils and droughty conditions, but performs best with supplemental watering during dry spells.

**HARDINESS:** USDA Zones 3 - 8. Rose campion is usually a perennial, surviving winters in zones 5-8. It may not survive Zone 3 and 4 winters but will usually reseed itself.

**PROPAGATION:** Sow seeds in place in autumn or a few weeks before the last expected frost in spring. The seeds need to be chilled before they germinate. Just press the seeds into the soil; do not bury them. Rose campion usually self sows abundantly if all the flowers aren't removed before they go to seed, and if the ground beneath the plants is not mulched too thickly. In spring, just thin the little seedlings around the old plant, and transplant some to other areas.

Source of data: [http://mobile.floridata.com/Plants/Caryophyllaceae/Lychnis%20coronaria/721](http://mobile.floridata.com/Plants/Caryophyllaceae/Lychnis%20coronaria/721)

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**Common Name:** Russian Sage

- **Plant Type:** Perennial - non Native adapted
- **Light Requirement:** Sunny
- **Water Requirement:** Low
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance:** High
- **Height:** 3 ft
- **Width/Spacing:** 3 ft
- **Flower Color:** Small blue flowers
- **Blooming Period:** Summer
- **Plant Form or Habit:** Shrub
- **Foliage Color and Texture:** Fine-textured; silvery green lacy leaves
- **Evergreen/Deciduous:** Deciduous
- **Butterfly or bird attracter:** Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds
- **Deer Resistant:** Usually
- **Use:** Flower beds and boarders

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) is neither Russian, nor is it a sage. It was, however, named after a Russian diplomat (B. A. Perovski) by Russian botanist (S. G. Karelin) around 1840. Russian sage is actually native to Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and other countries in that region) and Tibet. There are only seven species of Perovskia, but it is a member of the mint family (*Labiateae*) and there are over 5,500 genera in that family.

The “sage” misnomer comes from the smell of the leaves when crushed. The aroma produced is really sage-like and very pleasant. Cultivation of the plant began immediately after it was discovered and named. The plant is deciduous. The stems are grayish white and the distinctive and attractive silver-green leaves are a real eye-catcher. However, what makes this plant extremely desirable are its abundant tiny lavender flowers that bloom in late spring and continue to early fall.

Flowering happens only on new growth, so the plant should be drastically cut back in early spring before it begins to sprout new leaves. Cutting it back to the ground will not harm Russian sage.

One of the great things about Russian sage in a desert garden is that it is very tolerant of dry soils with high pH and high salt levels and it is considered drought-tolerant. In addition to growing well in the desert, it also grows well in gardens by the sea because of its tolerance to high salt concentrations.

Source of data: [http://www.gardening-tips-perennials.com/russiansage.html#ixzz0xwF3DTX1](http://www.gardening-tips-perennials.com/russiansage.html#ixzz0xwF3DTX1)

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Common Name: Salvia greggii, Autumn Sage, Compact Orange

Plant Type: Perennial
Light Requirement: Sun/partial sun
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 3 ft
Width/Spacing: 3 ft
Flower Color: Red
Blooming Period: March, April, May
Plant Form or Habit: Shrub
Foliage Color and Texture: Semi--Evergreen.
Butterfly or bird attracter: Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Deer Resistant: High
Plant Use: Small shrub

Salvia greggii is a popular, usually evergreen sub-shrub growing natively in rocky soils in Central, West and South Texas, and Mexico. It has small, dull pale green, glandular, aromatic leaves. The normally red-flowered species also has white and pink forms and many named cultivars with slightly larger or smaller, rounder or more elongate leaves, varying growth habits from very upright to sprawling, and a wide range of colors in addition to those mentioned above. Pale yellow, orange, salmon, fuchsia, purple, red-violet, burgundy, some with white variegation of leaves or flowers are commonly available. There are also numerous named hybrids with Salvia microphylla and other species, which are often referred to as "Salvia greggii types". It is valued for its adaptability to garden soils, its very long blooming season and as a magnet for hummingbirds. Autumn sage is usually not winter hardy in Wichita Falls and the High Plains of Texas. In a garden setting, prune back to 4 inches in late winter and again by one half in August to maintain a tidy shape, or allow to grow and spread or sprawl for a more natural appearance, with occasional pruning of old wood.

Autumn sage is a soft, mounded shrub is 2-3 ft. tall, with small, crisp, green leaves which are evergreen in warmer climates. Minty, aromatic flowers can be red, pink or white and are borne in ascending spikes. A minty-smelling shrub with many branches and few deep pink to reddish-lavender, bilaterally symmetrical flowers in each leafless raceme.

Source of data: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/salviagreg.htm](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/salviagreg.htm)
Common Name: Salvia greggii, Autumn Sage, Fuchsia

Plant Type: Perennial
Light Requirement: Sun/partial sun
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 3 ft
Width/Spacing: 3 ft
Flower Color: Red
Blooming Period: March, April, May
Plant Form or Habit: Shrub
Foliage Color and Texture: Semi-Evergreen.
Butterfly or bird attracter: Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Deer Resistant: High
Plant Use: Small shrub

Salvia greggii is a popular, usually evergreen sub-shrub growing natively in rocky soils in Central, West and South Texas, and Mexico. It has small, dull pale green, glandular, aromatic leaves. The normally red-flowered species also has white and pink forms and many named cultivars with slightly larger or smaller, rounder or more elongate leaves, varying growth habits from very upright to sprawling, and a wide range of colors in addition to those mentioned above. Pale yellow, orange, salmon, fuchsia, purple, red-violet, burgundy, some with white variegation of leaves or flowers are commonly available. There are also numerous named hybrids with Salvia microphylla and other species, which are often referred to as "Salvia greggii types". It is valued for its adaptability to garden soils, its very long blooming season and as a magnet for hummingbirds. Autumn sage is usually not winter hardy in Wichita Falls and the High Plains of Texas. In a garden setting, prune back to 4 inches in late winter and again by one half in August to maintain a tidy shape, or allow to grow and spread or sprawl for a more natural appearance, with occasional pruning of old wood.

Autumn sage is a soft, mounded shrub is 2-3 ft. tall, with small, crisp, green leaves which are evergreen in warmer climates. Minty, aromatic flowers can be red, pink or white and are borne in ascending spikes. A minty-smelling shrub with many branches and few deep pink to reddish-lavender, bilaterally symmetrical flowers in each leafless raceme.

Source of data: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/salviagreg.htm](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/salviagreg.htm)
Common Name: Salvia greggii, Autumn Sage, Lime Grape

Plant Type: Perennial
Light Requirement: Sun/partial sun
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 3 ft
Width/Spacing: 3 ft
Flower Color: Red
Blooming Period: March, April, May
Plant Form or Habit: Shrub
Foliage Color and Texture: Semi-Evergreen.
Butterfly or bird attracter: Butterflies, Hummingbirds
Deer Resistant: High
Plant Use: Small shrub

Salvia greggii is a popular, usually evergreen sub-shrub growing natively in rocky soils in Central, West and South Texas, and Mexico. It has small, dull pale green, glandular, aromatic leaves. The normally red-flowered species also has white and pink forms and many named cultivars with slightly larger or smaller, rounder or more elongate leaves, varying growth habits from very upright to sprawling, and a wide range of colors in addition to those mentioned above. Pale yellow, orange, salmon, fuchsia, purple, red-violet, burgundy, some with white variegation of leaves or flowers are commonly available. There are also numerous named hybrids with Salvia microphylla and other species, which are often referred to as "Salvia greggii types". It is valued for its adaptability to garden soils, its very long blooming season and as a magnet for hummingbirds. Autumn sage is usually not winter hardy in Wichita Falls and the High Plains of Texas. In a garden setting, prune back to 4 inches in late winter and again by one half in August to maintain a tidy shape, or allow to grow and spread or sprawl for a more natural appearance, with occasional pruning of old wood.

Autumn sage is a soft, mounded shrub is 2-3 ft. tall, with small, crisp, green leaves which are evergreen in warmer climates. Minty, aromatic flowers can be red, pink or white and are borne in ascending spikes. A minty-smelling shrub with many branches and few deep pink to reddish-lavender, bilaterally symmetrical flowers in each leafless raceme.

Source of data: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/salviagreg.htm](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/salviagreg.htm)

**Common Name:** Salvia greggii Raspberry

Botanical name: Salvia greggii

- **Plant Type:** Perennial
- **Light Requirement:** Sun
- **Water Requirement:** Low
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance:** High
- **Height:** 2-3 ft tall
- **Width/Spacing:** 3 ft to 4 ft
- **Flower Color:** Raspberry
- **Blooming Period:** Spring to fall
- **Plant Form or Habit:** Shrub
- **Foliage Color and Texture:** Evergreen, aromatic
- **Butterfly or bird attracter:** Hummingbirds, butterflies
- **Deer Resistant:** Usually
- **Plant Use:** Small shrub in perennial bed, hedge, and containers

Pretty raspberry red flowers. Small frost hardy easy-going bush. Very long flowering. Should not be pruned hard in autumn, best in spring or summer. Greggii have such frequent full sprays of flowers they make a lovely show. Best in well drained, sunny position. Recommended for beginners. Drought and frost tolerant. Suitable for hot, humid climates. Prefers well drained soil, will not stand wet feet or poorly drained soils.


Common Name: Salvia geggii Red, Autumn sage
Cherry sage

Plant Type: Perennial
Light Requirement: Sun
Water Requirement: low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 2-3 ft tall
Width/Spacing: 1/1 ft to 3 ft
Flower Color: Red
Blooming Period: March, April, May
Plant Form or Habit: shrub
Foliage Color and Texture: Evergreen, minty smelling
Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds, butterflies
Deer Resistant: Usually
Plant Use: Small shrub in perennial bed, hedge

Autumn sage is a soft, mounded shrub is 2-3 ft. tall, with small, crisp, green leaves which are evergreen in warmer climates. Minty, aromatic flowers can be red, pink or white and are borne in ascending spikes. A minty-smelling shrub with many branches and few deep pink to reddish-lavender, bilaterally symmetrical flowers in each leafless raceme.
The bright, vibrant, nearly red flowers make this species a favorite of all who visit the Big Bend region in western Texas. The species is popular in cultivation in the Southwest, as its nectar-laden flowers attract hummingbirds into yards to feed.
Autumn sage is delightful to use as a small shrub in a perennial bed. After the spring bloom, trim off 1/3 off the top, and again in late summer. Avoid planting it near heavy foot traffic because the stems are very brittle. There are many beautiful selections and colors to choose from. Autumn sage must have a well-drained site. It can be used as a flower in a perennial bed, as a sunny ground cover, or as a hedge. It is disease and insect free and drought tolerant, and once established, should not be fertilized.

Source of data: http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=sagr4
http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/plantguide/viewdetails.cfm?plant_id=170
Common Name: Sage - Pitcher  
*Salvia azurea*

- **Plant Type:** Perennial  
- **Light Requirement:** Sun/part shade  
- **Water Requirement:** Low  
- **Heat/Drought Tolerance:** High  
- **Height:** 30 to 36 inches tall  
- **Width/Spacing:** 15 inches  
- **Flower Color:** Blue  
- **Blooming Period:** Early Summer through fall  
- **Plant Form or Habit:** shrub  
- **Foliage Color and Texture:**  
- **Butterfly or bird attracter:** Bee, Butterflies  
- **Deer Resistant:** Yes also rabbit  
- **Plant Use:** Containers, perennial garden  

A tall, delicate plant with large, 2-lipped, blue flowers, whorled around the square stem and forming a terminal spike-like cluster.  
A widespread perennial of the grasslands, it also extends east to the Carolinas. It begins to flower early and may continue until fall or into early winter in Florida.  

Pitcher sage is a wonderful wildflower found growing over a wide area of the Great Plains. Blooming in late summer and early fall, this perennial is admired for its sky blue flowers and remarkable xeric qualities. This salvia grows to 30 to 36 inches in height, but may be pinched back for bushier growth.  

**Noteworthy Characteristics:** This native has sky blue flowers in late summer and early fall.  
**Care:** Provide full sun to light shade and any well-drained soil except clay. Pinch the lax stems once or twice in early summer to encourage sturdier growth that will support the blooms.  
**Propagation:** Take cuttings of newer growth anytime, or divide plants in early spring.

Source of data:  
Common Name: Skullcap – Dark Pink  
*Scutellaria suffrutescens*

Plant Type: Perennial  
Light Requirement: Sun/part shade  
Water Requirement: Low  
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High  
Height: 8 inches  
Width/Spacing: 3 ft. wide  
Flower Color: Pink  
Blooming Period: Spring to fall  
Plant Form or Habit: Evergreen shrub  
Foliage Color and Texture: Thyme-like foliage  
Butterfly or bird attracter: Attract butterflies, insects and/or birds  
Deer Resistant: Somewhat  
Plant Use: Border, rock garden, containers

Scutellaria suffrutescens is a drought tolerant, heat loving, sun loving plant that is great for the Texas Garden. Scutellaria suffrutescens is in the mint family along with other drought tolerant plants such as Salvias, the flower is reminiscent of tiny snapdragon flowers. The flowers are rose-red to pink in color and small, but they are plentiful which more than makes up for their size, usually Skullcap will hold its bloom from late spring until early fall. Pink Texas Skullcap has Thyme-like foliage and has a dense growth habit, remaining neat and compact. It can however benefit and responds well to the occasional shearing, which will prevent it from getting thin in the middle. Use Pink Texas Skullcap for rock gardens, on dry hillsides, xeriscaping, or even for container gardening!

Source of data:

*Extension programs service people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.*
Common Name: Snake herb, creeping
Dyschoriste linearis

Plant Type: Perennial
Light Requirement: Sun
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 6 to 12 inches
Width/Spacing:
Flower Color: Purple
Blooming Period: Spring to fall
Plant Form or Habit: Deciduous
Foliage Color and Texture:
Butterfly or bird attracter: Attract butterflies
Deer Resistant: Somewhat
Plant Use: Border, rock garden, containers

*Takes full, hot sun in poor soil!* Narrowleaf dyschoriste, sometimes called snake herb, is native throughout the state of Texas. It forms a dense mound of upright stems covered with narrow leaves, from which petunia-like purple flowers emerge. Since it's a Texas native it likes it hot and dry, and it will thrive in any well-drained soil.

Several erect stems, 6–12 inches tall, grow from the root of this plant, the branches and stems are covered with stiff, coarse hairs. The leaves are opposite, 3/4–2 3/4 inches long, attached directly to the 4-sided stem. The 2-lipped flowers are 1/2–1 inch long and up to 1 inch across, lavender to purple, with purple stripes in the throat. They grow in the leaf axils on very short stems and are somewhat tucked in between the leaves, scattered here and there on the main stem.

Pale lavender to purple, two-lipped bell-shaped flowers occur in leaf axils in late spring and repeats in late summer with sufficient moisture.

Native Habitat: Found on rocky-grassy slopes, silty flats or above caprock in most of the western two thirds of Texas. Well-drained sand, loam, clay, limestone

**Name:** St. John’s Wort

*Hypericum perforatum*

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial  
**Family:** Hypericaceae  
**Native Range:** Europe to central China, northern Africa, western Himalyans  
**Zone:** 3 to 8  
**Height:** 1.00 to 3.00 feet  
**Spread:** 0.75 to 2.00 feet  
**Bloom Time:** June to August  
**Bloom Description:** Yellow  
**Sun:** Full sun to part shade  
**Water:** Medium  
**Maintenance:** Low  
**Suggested Use:** Naturalize  
**Flower:** Showy  
**Tolerate:** Drought

Hypericum perforatum, St. John’s wort (sometimes commonly called perforate St. John's wort, goatweed or Klamath weed) is an upright, many-branched, stoloniferous, yellow-flowered, herbaceous perennial (some say perennial weed) that is native to Europe, western Asia and northern Africa. Plants were first brought to North America by settlers in 1696, and have naturalized over time throughout much of the continent. It typically grows from a woody, branched rootstock to 1-3’ tall, and features a showy display of star-shaped, yellow flowers (1 1/2” diameter) that bloom in pyramidal compound cymes in summer (June-August). Each flower has 5 yellow petals peppered with black dots, a pistil with 3 styles and a center boss of bushy yellow stamens. Stem-clasping, elliptic to oblong leaves to (1 1/4” long) have translucent dots and black marginal punctations. Foliage has an unpleasant aroma when bruised or rubbed.

St. John’s wort is usually propagated from runners in the autumn or by seed sown early in the spring. The plant does best when planted on an average soil and prefers dappled shade or full sun. The plants grow rapidly but are short lived, usually lasting only five or six years. Because of their dense, compact habit of growth they rarely need pruning, but if it is necessary to cut off deadwood, do so in early spring. New plants can be started from softwood cuttings of young growth in late spring or early summer.

Common Name: Turks Cap - Big Momma

Botanical name: Malvaviscus drummondii ‘Big Momma’

Plant Type: Annual herbaceous perennial
Light Requirement: Sun/part shade
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 5 ft
Width/Spacing: 2ft wide
Flower Color: Red 2-3”
Blooming Period: Spring till fall
Plant Form or Habit: Spreading
Foliage Color and Texture: Dark green
Evergreen/Deciduous: Semi-evergreen
Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds, butterflies
Deer Resistant: Yes
Plant Use: Ornamental for shade

Can bloom all winter into spring in a mild winter, sun/part shade, drought tolerant but will tolerate wet, dormant in winter, hummingbirds, birds. Fruit for wildlife; susceptible to freeze; spreads aggressively; attracts hummingbirds and butterflies

Turk’s cap is a good ornamental for a shady site, but is aggressive and must be controlled to keep it from taking over.

This deer-resistant 2005 introduction from Texan Greg Grant produces flowers that are over 1/3 larger that the typical form. Malvaviscus 'Big Momma' emerges in late spring and quickly rises to 6’ tall, topped from midsummer until frost with bright orange flowers, swirled like a turk's cap.

This shrubby plant has showy red flowers and leaves that are intermediate between the parent species (which see). A relatively recent Texas introduction by Greg Grant, this should prove a garden worthy plant that is likely to be a bit more cold-hardy than the Malvaviscus arboreus parent. Some consider Malvaviscus drummondii to be a variety of Malvaviscus arboreus.

Source of data:

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/plantguide/viewdetails.cfm?plant_id=119
http://www.woodlanders.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=plants.plantDetail&plant_id=1967

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A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program.
Common Name: Turks Cap, Pink

Botanical name: *Malvaviscus drummondii 'Pink'*
Plant Type: Annual herbaceous perennial
Light Requirement: Sun/part shade
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 2’ to 3’ft
Width/Spacing: 2 ft wide
Flower Color: Pink
Blooming Period: Spring till fall
Plant Form or Habit: spreading
Foliage Color and Texture: Dark green
Evergreen/Deciduous: Semi-evergreen
Butterfly or bird attracter: Hummingbirds, butterflies
Deer Resistant: Yes
Plant Use: Ornamental for shade

This spreading shrub, often as broad as high, grows 2-3 ft., sometimes reaching 9 ft. Bright-red, pendant, hibiscus-like flowers never fully open, their petals overlapping to form a loose tube with the stamina column protruding, said to resemble a Turkish turban, hence its most common name, Turks cap. Especially useful in shady situations.

Can bloom all winter into spring in a mild winter, sun/part shade, drought tolerant but will tolerate wet, dormant in winter, hummingbirds, birds. Fruit for wildlife; susceptible to freeze; spreads aggressively; attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Turk’s cap is a good ornamental for a shady site, but is aggressive and must be controlled to keep it from taking over.

Source of data: [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=MAARD](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=MAARD)
Common Name: Zexmania

Botanical name:  Wedelia hispida

Plant Type: Perennial
Light Requirement: Sun
Water Requirement: Low
Heat/Drought Tolerance: High
Height: 2 to 3 ft
Width/Spacing: 3 ft. wide
Flower Color: Yellow, orange
Blooming Period: May thru October
Plant Form or Habit: Small shrub
Foliage Color and Texture: Semi-evergreen
Butterfly or bird attracter: Attract butterflies, insects and/or birds
Deer Resistant: Somewhat
Plant Use: Perennial garden, rock garden, rocky hillsides

Zexmenia's native range includes the Edwards Plateau to the Trans-Pecos, Corpus Christi, the Rio Grande Valley and into Mexico. In those areas it is an evergreen sub-shrub. However, it is known to be root hardy into zone 7, where it dies to the ground and returns in mid spring. Zexmenia has been a popular landscape plant in Texas for a number of years and is referred to by some gardeners as a "miracle plant" because of its versatility, cold and drought tolerance and long season good looks. This bouquet-like shrublet stands upright in full sun but will adapt to partial shade at the woods edge by reclining slightly to form a mounding groundcover with shiny, dark, sandpapery leaves and slightly fewer golden-orange, nickel-sized daisies than would occur in full sun. Poor rocky sites and amended garden soil are equally suitable provided the drainage is good. It may be cut back by half in July to re-shape or promote denser growth.

Periodic shearing encourages repeat blooming and fullness. Blooms continuously though not profusely; use in combination with other blooming plants, re-seeds.

Zexmenia if a perennial with yellow flowers and a long booming period (May to October). It is very drought tolerant when established. Grow in full sun in a well drained location. Deer may leave this plant alone.

Source of data: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/plantguide/searchplantresults.cfm?commonname=Zexmenia&submit8=Submit
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/wedeliahispida.htm