



**Texas  
Superstar®**

**Strong and  
Stunning Plants  
for Texans.**



**GO TEXAN.**

COMMISSIONER TODD STAPLES  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## What it takes to be a Superstar®

It isn't easy to become a Texas Superstar® plant. Only the toughest, most reliable and best-looking plants make the cut. Every plant earning the Texas Superstar® designation undergoes several years of extensive field trials by Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, both part of the Texas A&M System. They must be proven to be super-performing plants under Texas growing conditions. During the field trials, plants receive minimal soil preparation, minimal water and no pesticides. What does that mean to the average homeowner? It means landscape success with beautiful, proven, Texas-tough plants. Visit [www.TexasSuperstar.com](http://www.TexasSuperstar.com) for additional details about these amazing stars. The term "Texas Superstar" is a registered trademark of Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M System.



## GO TEXAN

**GO TEXAN** is the Texas Department of Agriculture's program promoting the products, culture and communities that call Texas home. As a mark of Lone Star pride, the **GO TEXAN** logo – a glowing brand in the shape of Texas – can be found on everything from floral products and grapefruit to cowboy boots and retirement destinations.



### Texas Bluebonnet

*Lupinus texensis*

The Texas state flower is a hardy winter annual native to Texas. This species is the most commonly seen variety along roadsides and in pastures throughout the state. Flowers are densely arranged on a spike with a characteristic ice white terminal tip.

**Exposure:** full, hot sun

**Height:** 12-24 inches

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** fall

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** flower beds, meadows and hillsides

**Special notes:** The Texas bluebonnet, which blooms between March and May, has a blue flowering stalk tipped with white (like a bunny's tail). These hearty plants rarely suffer from insect and disease problems, however a well-balanced fertilizer applied in the fall will help with flower production.

### Texas Maroon Bluebonnet

*Lupinus texensis*  
"Texas Maroon"  
"Alamo Fire"

A selection of the Texas state flower is a hardy winter annual native to Texas. Flowers are densely arranged on a spike with a characteristic ice white terminal tip.

**Exposure:** full sun essential

**Height:** 12-14 inches

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** fall

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** bedding, window boxes, patio containers and hanging baskets

**Special notes:** Texas maroon bluebonnets have a spreading growth habit and reddish-maroon flowers with a characteristic white terminal tip. It is recommended they are spaced 12 inches apart when transplanting or seeding.

### Texas Gold Columbine

*Aquilegia chrysantha* var.  
*hinckleyana* "Texas Gold"

This cool season perennial has bright yellow, lightly fragrant spring flowers atop its long stems. Its gray-green foliage is evergreen in warmer climates.

**Exposure:** filtered shade in the summer and full sun in the winter and spring, such as found under the canopy of a deciduous tree

**Height:** 18-24 inches

**Plant type:** cool season perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** garden accent, specimen, hummingbird garden and container garden

**Special notes:** The Texas Gold columbine is recommended for hardiness zones 6-9. It has an open clumping habit and grows as wide as 24 inches. It works best in a full sun environment with medium water.

### Gold Star Esperanza

*Tecoma stans* "Gold Star"

This heat-loving, semi-evergreen shrub has golden-yellow bell-shaped flowers late spring through fall.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 4 feet

**Plant type:** evergreen

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** containers, flower beds, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

**Special notes:** Gold Star esperanza is recommended for hardiness zone 9. It has attractive glossy foliage and grows up to 3-feet wide. Gold Star esperanza requires medium amounts of water. Water weekly in lieu of one inch of rain. Immediately remove the fruit (beans) after flowering to promote rebloom.

### New Wonder Fan Flower

*Scaevola aemula*  
"New Wonder"

This spreading tender perennial offers fan-shaped lilac-mauve flowers from spring to fall.

**Exposure:** full sun to partial shade

**Height:** 6-8 inches

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** specimen plant, groundcover, flower beds and large containers

**Special notes:** The New Wonder fan flower is a heat loving, easy care annual that thrives in the sun and covers itself with a profusion of fan-shaped, lavender flowers. Works best in a large container with well-aerated potting mix and medium to high amounts of water. This Texas Superstar thrives best in hardiness zone 9 and can be evergreen in mild climates.



## Lowery's Legacy Cenizo

*Leucophyllum langmaniae*

Lowery's Legacy was selected for its profuse and frequent flower displays. Its sage-green foliage is a wonderful backdrop for the lavender flowers. Compared to most selections of Texas sage, it is not as dependent on changes in relative humidity for flowering and can bloom more often during the course of the summer than other selections.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 5 feet

**Plant type:** woody shrub

**Planting Time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** tolerant of most soils as long as they are well drained and not soggy

**Suggested uses:** general-purpose shrub where a touch of silvery foliage is desired; other uses include as a foundation shrub, in island plantings, xeriscapes or in mixed borders; with appropriate substrate, it can be used in containers on sunny patios

**Special notes:** Multiple flowering flushes frequently occur during a growing season; avoid over-watering.

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## Duranta

*Duranta erecta*

Brazilian Sky Flower is a rapid-growing, dense shrub with small glossy leaves and a profusion of pendulous racemes of small flowers with colors varying from light blue to purple.

**Exposure:** sun or shade; flowers heavier in sun

**Height:** 12-15 feet in south Texas depending on pruning

**Plant type:** root-hardy perennial in South Texas, but annual or tender perennial in most of the state

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils

**Suggested uses:** can be used as a container plant or an accent plant in a landscape

**Special notes:** Some selections fruit heavily and the plant becomes covered with small, golden ball-like drupes. Must be treated as an annual-root hardy perennial in most parts of Texas, but will be perennial in South Texas. Brazilian Sky Flower blooms best from summer until the first frost.

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## Firebush

*Hamelia patens*

Firebush offers real hope to heat-hammered summer landscapes. Once established, firebush is very heat and drought tolerant. Firebush is an evergreen shrub or small tree native to many areas in tropical and subtropical America.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 18-30 inches

**Plant type:** annual from Central Texas northward, perennial in South Texas

**Planting time:** set transplants from mid-May through summer months and space one foot apart

**Soil type:** almost any well-drained soil, even highly alkaline, heavy clays

**Suggested uses:** mass plantings with white blooming annuals, containers and hummingbird gardens

**Special notes:** The firebush blooms between June and November with terminal clusters of scarlet red, tubular blossoms with deeper red throats. Its foliage turns to a blood red color in the fall. Two pounds of a high-nitrogen fertilizer (without herbicide) per 100 square feet of bed area are recommended. Firebush does not usually show signs of insect or disease damage when grown outdoors in a full sun location.



## Firecracker Jatropha

*Jatropha integrerrima*

This subtropical evergreen shrub has glossy leaves and clusters of star-shaped bright scarlet or vermilion flowers. The plant has a rounded or narrow domed form. Jatropha is a spectacular shrub in bloom, which is most of the year in warmer portions of the state, and spring to frost in colder locations.

**Exposure:** best flowering is in full sun, but plants will remain attractive in partial shade

**Height:** in tropical climates plants may grow 8-10 feet tall, but as patio plants or summer annuals they are usually 3-5 feet tall.

**Plant type:** summer annual where winters are cold, woody shrub along the coast and in south Texas

**Planting time:** spring after danger of frost is past

**Soil type:** adapted to most well-drained garden soils and can be grown in a variety of potting mixes

**Suggested uses:** use as a summer accent where frosts are frequent or in a mixed shrub border where winters are warm. Use as a container plant to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

**Special notes:** Leaves come in unlobed, one-lobed or two-lobed forms all on the same plant; fruit are reported to be poisonous, but appear to be seldom produced in most Texas regions.



## Possum Haw Deciduous Holly

*Ilex deciduas*

This outstanding small native tree requires very low maintenance. It will drop its leaves in fall to reveal showy red or orange berries (on female plants) that remain throughout the winter. Possum Haw attracts songbirds and is heat and drought tolerant.

**Exposure:** full sun to partial shade

**Height:** 10-15 feet

**Plant type:** large deciduous woody shrub or small tree

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from acidic to slightly alkaline

**Suggested uses:** accent, shrub border, fall to winter specimen, limbed up as a small ornamental tree or patio tree

**Special notes:** Plant female clones for fruit effects, however a male pollinator must be in the area. Possum haw tolerates seasonal poorly drained soils.





## Flare Perennial Hibiscus

*Hibiscus x "Flare"*

This herbaceous perennial has apple-green foliage and large iridescent fuchsia-red flowers up to 10 inches wide.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 3-4 feet

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** any soil type, including high alkaline clays

**Suggested uses:** perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens and containers

**Special notes:** The Flare hibiscus performs best in hardiness zone 5. It produces large leaves and is a profuse bloomer with a mounding habit. It is also self-sterile, which encourages re-bloom. The Flare hibiscus will bloom from summer through the first frost.



## Pink Flare and Peppermint Flare Hibiscus

*Hibiscus x 'Pink Flare' and 'Peppermint Flare'*

Part of the Flare Series, this showy perennial has large glowing fuchsia flowers. The offspring have the same superior traits as the original but their colors are pink and peppermint (white with red stripes). Their maple-like emerald-green foliage is very attractive on compact plants that are practically sterile, which encourages continuous bloom.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 3-5 feet

**Plant type:** herbaceous perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** any soil type, including high pH clays

**Suggested uses:** perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, containers

**Special notes:** Great complements for use with Flare, Moy Grande and Lord Baltimore hibiscuses with an expanded color range. Peppermint Flare offers an unusually striking two-tone flower.

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## Moy Grande Perennial Hibiscus

*Hibiscus x "Moy Grande"*

The giant-flowered rose mallow has the largest flowers of any hardy perennial. These are descendants of the native hibiscus found in Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states. They are among the most spectacular and easily grown plants. Ying Doon Moy, research and development horticulturist at the San Antonio Botanical Center, cross-bred a *Hibiscus moscheutos* hybrid with *Hibiscus grandiflorus* to create the largest, open-face hibiscus flower in the world. The phenomenon of hybrid vigor (the offspring is superior to either parent) resulted in huge, rose-pink flowers of the new variety named Moy Grande.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 5 feet

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil containing plenty of organic matter and nutrients

**Suggested uses:** perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

**Special notes:** Moy Grande will grow up to 5-feet wide and bloom between May and September. Removing spent flowers and developing seed pods will promote re-bloom. Flowers are usually 12 inches wide and have a rose-pink color. Moy Grande hibiscus will perform best in hardiness zone 5.



## Lord Baltimore Perennial Hibiscus

*Hibiscus x "Lord Baltimore"*

This perennial has glossy foliage and large red flowers up to 10 inches wide.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 5 feet

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** prefers neutral to acid soils

**Suggested uses:** perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

**Special notes:** The Lord Baltimore performs best in hardiness zone 5. It has attractive foliage, provides stunning color, loves the heat and requires very little maintenance. It also has excellent pest and disease resistance, and works best with medium amounts of water.



## New Gold Lantana

*Lantana camara "New Gold"*

The New Gold Lantana is a low maintenance annual with golden yellow flowers. It is drought and heat tolerant, and its reduced fruit set promotes prolific blooming from spring until frost.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 12-24 inches

**Plant type:** small spreading woody shrub, herbaceous perennial or annual depending on the locations

**Planting time:** spring to summer from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

**Suggested uses:** accent, bedding, bank cover or patio containers

**Special notes:** When well established, the plants are very drought tolerant and continue to produce bright and attractive blooms in the hottest of weather. This annual also needs periodic renewal pruning to remove old dead wood.



## Rocket Larkspur

*Consolida ambigua*

This reseeding annual has a backward-projecting spur, formed by the upper petal of the flower. The long spikes or panicles of flowers come in both single and double forms. Colors range from various shades of blue or purple-blue to pink and white. The soft, lacy foliage makes a great backdrop for the showy flower spikes.

**Exposure:** full sun for best bloom but will tolerate partial shade

**Height:** 36 inches

**Plant type:** reseeding annual

**Planting time:** fall

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** in bedding, window boxes, cut flowers and dried flowers

**Special notes:** The Rocket Larkspur performs best in hardiness zone 7, spaced 10-12 inches apart. Disease or pest problems are minimal if plants are grown in well-drained soils.



## Mari-mum

*Tagetes erecta*

There are several different varieties of American-type (large-flowered) marigolds such as Antigua which can be used to produce the Mari-mum effect. The Mari-mum-type marigolds bloom two to three times longer than chrysanthemums and are very low maintenance.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 8-16 inches

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** transplant in mid-August using plants with only tight flower buds showing – preferably no open flowers

**Soil type:** well-drained soil with organic matter

**Suggested uses:** Mari-mums have such visual impact, even at a distance, that they're a wonderful choice for mass planting in the accent corner of the backyard or along the front edge of a flower bed, walkways or garden paths. Mari-mums also do extremely well in containers.

**Special notes:** Applying 1-2 pounds of a slow release lawn fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area will enhance blooming.



## Satsuma Mandarin

*Citrus reticulata*

Satsuma Mandarin produces the highest quality, most cold tolerant citrus for Texas. The tree has attractive evergreen foliage and produces white flowers with a wonderful fragrance. The mandarin fruit is very sweet, juicy, easy to peel and almost seedless.

**Exposure:** minimum of 8-10 hours of sun a day

**Height:** 4-6 feet after several years in container

**Plant type:** evergreen citrus tree

**Planting time:** fall

**Suggested uses:** accent plant for the patio and containers

**Special notes:** This Texas Superstar will perform best in hardiness zone 9. It will flower between March and April with fruit ripening in late fall. Use at least a 20-gallon container with drainage holes. Follow label directions in applying the full rate of a slow release fertilizer formulated specifically for container use and including both macro- and micro-nutrients. Reapply fertilizer every four months. Don't water too frequently; and bring inside when there is a freeze warning.



## Shantung Maple

*Acer truncatum*

This beautiful maple has a spreading canopy with attractive foliage that turns spectacular red or red-orange in late fall. It is reminiscent of Japanese maple but much tougher.

**Exposure:** full sun to partial shade

**Height:** 25 feet

**Plant type:** ornamental deciduous tree

**Planting time:** fall and spring

**Soil type:** various soil types and tolerates alkaline soils

**Suggested uses:** shade tree for small yards

**Special notes:** Shantung maples tolerate heat, however they are not adapted to West Texas, and the trunk must be wrapped the first three years to prevent sunscald. Performs best in hardiness zone 6.



## Chinkapin Oak

*Quercus muehlenbergii*

Chinkapin Oak is an attractive medium to large shade tree suitable for use in much of Texas. Its distinctive saw-tooth leaves, which resemble those of the chinquapin tree found in the eastern United States, are a rich green, turning yellow to bronze in fall.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 50-60 feet

**Plant type:** large deciduous tree

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from slightly acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

**Suggested uses:** shade tree, street tree or park tree

**Special notes:** It grows in the wild on well-drained bottomland soils and limestone hills near water, but it is adaptable to a range of soils and exposures. It is moderate- to fast-growing and develops an open rounded crown as it ages. Chinkapin oak is heat and drought tolerant, which makes the species widely adaptable throughout Texas.





### Lacey Oak

*Quercus glaucooides*

This beautiful small oak, native to the Texas Hill Country, has a spreading canopy with attractive bluish-green foliage. Lacey oaks are highly tolerant of heat, drought, alkaline soil and pests. They make wonderful shade trees for smaller yards.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 25 feet

**Plant type:** deciduous tree

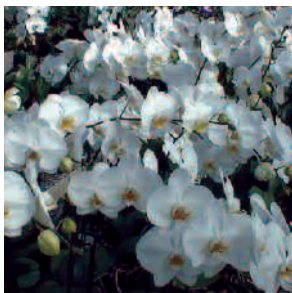
**Planting time:** fall and spring

**Soil type:** will survive in well-drained clay soils, but grows best in well-drained limestone soils

#### Suggested uses:

Xeriscapes or low water-use landscapes are perfect conditions for growing Lacey oak. Works best as a shade tree in a small to medium landscape.

**Special notes:** Best adapted to the western two-thirds of the state. Don't water too frequently.



### Moth Orchid

*Phalaenopsis*

The moth orchid is one of the best orchids for growing in the home. These orchids grow in water and take moisture from the air. Clumped orchid plants in small pots are usually the most spectacular bloom producers.

**Exposure:** place near bright windows with no direct sun

**Height:** 2 feet

**Plant type:** sub-tropical indoor plants

**Planting time:** late spring or early summer, after blooming has completed

**Soil type:** well-draining mix, such as fir bark, tree fern fiber, various types of stone, peat moss or combinations; standard potting mixes will kill them

**Suggested uses:** interior plants to add color to a home or office

**Special notes:** Keep the temperature above 60° F at night and between 70° F and 82° F during the day. Temperatures below 78° F for three to five weeks with good light are needed for initiating flower spikes. Thoroughly water and then let stand and do not water again until nearly dry. Apply a complete fertilizer on a regular schedule during the active growing season at a rate of one-half to one teaspoon per one gallon at each watering. Potting should be done in late spring or early summer after blooming is complete.



### Dwarf Mexican Petunia

*Ruellia brittoniana*  
(various dwarf cultivars)

Under proper growing conditions, dwarf Mexican petunias tend to reseed and produce tall upright, dark green plants with lance-shaped leaves and bright, tubular flowers when in full bloom during the hottest part of the summer.

**Exposure:** full sun to partial shade

**Height:** 6-8 inches

**Plant type:** herbaceous perennial or annual depending on the location

**Planting time:** spring to summer from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

**Suggested uses:** accent, small scale groundcover, perennial borders, edging or mixed plantings

**Special notes:** Dwarf Mexican petunias are very adaptable and will tolerate both wet and dry soils. They prefer full sun but will grow in shade; however, since flowering is light-related, the plants will flower less in the shade. Although dwarf Mexican petunias are drought tolerant once established, they perform best with regular irrigation during droughts and with regular feeding of high phosphorus fertilizers. Dwarf Mexican petunias are available in blue, pink and white.



### Laura Bush Petunia

*Petunia x "Laura Bush"*

This is an old-fashioned reseeding petunia. It is more cold tolerant, disease resistant and heat tolerant than modern hybrids.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 24 inches

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** spring and summer

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** bedding, window boxes, patio containers and hanging baskets

**Special notes:** The Laura Bush petunia performs best in hardiness zone 7. It has a spreading growth habit with medium-size violet flowers. It grows best when transplanted 36 inches apart. This Texas Superstar blooms from spring until frost. Between bloom cycles, prune back by 20 percent and lightly fertilize.



### Tidal Wave Silver and Cherry Petunia

*Petunia X hybrida*

These petunias represent two colors from the Tidal Wave series of petunia. They are more heat, disease and cold tolerant than typical grandiflora type petunias. The vigor of these plants ensures a plentiful flower supply during the summer and into the fall.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 18-20 inches but can spread 4 feet

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** spring and summer, can be planted in October/November for late-winter and early-spring flowering

**Soil type:** adaptable to different soil types as long as well-drained

**Suggested uses:** bedding, ground cover, large containers

**Special notes:** Flowers are more vibrant if plants are not watered overhead. Drip irrigation is preferred. Drought tolerant, but benefits from regular watering and regular fertilization. If trimming is desired in mid to late summer, the plants can be lightly trimmed about 20 percent (a string trimmer works well). Water and lightly fertilize after trimming to stimulate growth and flowering. Plants can be set out in the fall for late winter, spring, and summer flowering.

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### John Fanick Perennial Phlox

*Phlox paniculata*  
"John Fanick"

Masses of light pink flowers sporting a dark pink eye in the summer highlight this heat and drought resistant perennial. It blooms several weeks later than Victoria perennial or garden phlox and does not lodge as easily as Victoria. It is more disease resistant as well.

**Exposure:** full sun for best bloom but will tolerate partial shade

**Height:** 24-36 inches

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** specimen and background in perennial gardens

**Special notes:** The John Fanick perennial phlox has an attractive evergreen foliage with a compact growth habit and blooms in the summer and fall. This Texas Superstar tolerates heat, drought and powdery mildew. Plants should be spaced between 24 and 36 inches apart. Cut back in late summer for fall blooms. The ideal hardiness zone is 4.



### Victoria Perennial Phlox

*Phlox paniculata* "Victoria"

This heat and drought resistant perennial sports masses of purplish-pink (magenta) flowers in the summer and in the fall (if cut back after summer bloom occurs).

**Exposure:** full sun for best bloom but will tolerate partial shade

**Height:** 24-36 inches

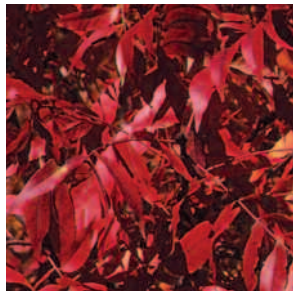
**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** specimen and background in perennial gardens

**Special notes:** The Victoria perennial phlox has an attractive evergreen foliage with a compact growth habit. It is a hardy perennial with showy clusters of magenta pink blossoms. It also has lighter green foliage and a more open growth habit than the John Fanick. This Texas Superstar tolerates heat, drought and powdery mildew. Plants should be spaced between 24 and 36 inches apart. The ideal hardiness zone is 4.



### Chinese Pistache

*Pistacia chinensis*

This is a long-lived, winter shade tree with spectacular red, red-orange fall color. It has outstanding heat and drought tolerance and is extremely pest resistant.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 40-50 feet

**Plant type:** deciduous shade tree

**Planting time:** fall (September through November)

**Soil type:** grows in any type of soil; try to avoid heavy clays that hold water

**Suggested uses:** ideal size for shade, enframement and background for single-story homes

**Special notes:** The Chinese pistache develops an umbrella-like canopy and has a width of 30 feet. Fruit set will only occur on female trees and consists of clusters of small, round green berries that turn red to reddish-purple in the fall. These fruit clusters make excellent table decorations and though inedible for humans, the fruit is relished by birds. Light but frequent fertilizations are recommended. Once established, it has superior drought, heat and wind tolerance but will not tolerate excess or standing water. The ideal hardiness zone is 5.

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### Belinda's Dream Rose

*Rosa x "Belinda's Dream"*

A cross between "Tiffany" and "Jersey Beauty," this fast growing shrub is upright and sturdy and has bluish-green foliage. Its blossom is a clean pink, double and high-centered rose in the classic hybrid tea style. Blooms occur in abundance all through the warm months, especially if spent blooms are removed immediately. The flowers are produced in abundance throughout the growing season and have a rich, distinctive fragrance.

**Exposure:** full sun for best bloom

**Height:** 5 feet

**Plant type:** shrub rose

**Planting time:** fall and spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil is best but will grow in high alkaline clay soils

**Suggested uses:** cut flowers, dried flowers for potpourri and landscapes

**Special notes:** Belinda's Dream performs best in hardiness zones 7-9. It has a bush habit and can be as wide as 4 feet. Needs day-long full sun and good air movement over the leaves. Drip irrigation or a soaker hose is recommended. The plant is occasionally attacked by black spot during the cool season but is usually vigorous enough to overcome the disease.



### Knockout™ Rose

*Rosa "Radrazz"*

The Knockout™ Rose produces fluorescent, cherry-red blooms that begin in spring and continue to provide color until the first frost.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 3-4 feet, but can grow up to 5-feet high and 5-feet wide when mature

**Plant type:** shrub rose

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with reasonable drainage

**Suggested uses:** accent, shrub border, rose garden or low hedges

**Special notes:** The Knockout Rose grows well in planting zones 4 through 9 and is highly tolerant of black spot, powdery mildew and aphids. It is also cold-hardy throughout the state, will grow in a wide range of soils (even highly alkaline clays) and is very heat and drought tolerant once established. During the winter months, its orange-red rose hips provide added interest.





### Marie Daly Rose

*Rosa x polyantha*  
"Marie Daly"

This easy care shrub rose has few thorns and lots of very fragrant, double pink blooms. It offers successive flushes of bloom from spring to frost. Developed for Texas, this rose offers a new color of renowned antique rose "Marie Pavie" and good disease and alkaline soil tolerance.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 3 feet

**Plant type:** shrub rose

**Planting time:** fall and spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil is best but will grow in high alkaline clay soils

**Suggested uses:** cut flowers, dried flowers for pot-pourri and landscapes

**Special notes:** Marie Daly Rose performs best in hardiness zone 5. It has a bush habit and can be as wide as 3 feet. Needs daylong full sun and good air movement over the leaves. Drip irrigation or a soaker hose is recommended.



### Grandma's Yellow Rose

*Rosa 'Nachogdoches'*

Grandma's Yellow Rose is deep yellow with 17 to 25 petals and repeatedly blooms from spring until the first hard frost. Its new leaves have a shade of bronze, then turn dark green. Flowers have a light and spicy fragrance. It is a repeat bloomer from spring until frost and is quite disease resistant. It is cold hardy to zone 6.

**Exposure:** full sun for at least six hours per day

**Height:** 4-5 feet

**Plant type:** shrub rose with a floribunda type habit

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** well-drained slightly acidic soil is best, but it adapts to alkaline clay soils as long as drainage is adequate

**Suggested uses:** accent, shrub border with perennials, low hedges, cut flowers

**Special notes:** Can be attacked by black spot during wet periods, mainly in the spring and fall. A few fungicide applications in the spring or during long wet periods will control the disease. Plants tolerate the disease well by readily producing new growth after defoliation. Will be designated a Superstar in May 2010.

*Photo provided and copyrighted by Dr. Michael Arnold, Texas AgriLife Research*



### Cape Plumbago

*Plumbago auriculata*

Cape Plumbago produces profuse blue flowers and thrives in the hot Texas summer. It is sometimes called "sky flower" because of the sky-blue color of its flowers. It produces from May until the first frost.

**Exposure:** full sun; partial sun

**Height:** 4 feet tall, up to 5 feet wide

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

**Suggested uses:** container or accent plant

**Special notes:** Dried flowers should be pruned from the Plumbago to encourage re-blooming and to maintain desired plant shape. It is excellent for attracting butterflies. It can handle hot, humid summers and is reasonably drought tolerant.



### Henry Duelberg

*Salvia farinacea*

Henry Duelberg is a low-maintenance; heat-tolerant, Texas native plant that produces masses of showy blue flowers from spring until the first frost.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 3 feet; width 3 feet

**Plant type:** perennial

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils

**Suggested uses:** bedding, containers, xeriscape, perennial border, cut flower

**Special notes:** Shearing frequently between bloom cycles will promote bloom development. Henry Duelberg is not preferred by deer.



### Mystic Spires Blue Salvia

*(Salvia longispicata X farinacea 'Mystic Spires Blue')*

Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is a compact form of another popular salvia called Indigo Spires. Though shorter than Indigo Spires, it flowers even more freely during the entire growing season. It produces masses of true blue flowers that mix nicely with other annuals and perennials, is tolerant of heat and humidity (low and high) and is not bothered by pests, diseases or deer!

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 18-30 inches

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring to summer from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils, but needs good drainage

**Suggested uses:** bedding, containers, perennial border, cut flower

**Special notes:** Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is hardy to zone 7 with good drainage. Excess water and fertilizer can result in excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers. If needed, plants can be pruned during the growing season as reflowering occurs quickly. Shoots can be pruned to 12 inches or more in the fall after being killed by freezing, but refrain from pruning to the ground until growth is strong in the spring.

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### Variegated Tapioca

*Manihot esculenta*

Variegated Tapioca is a tropical plant grown as an annual in all but southernmost Texas. The variegated leaves form a chartreuse/yellow pattern. It is a non-blooming plant that offers a tropical flare to summer landscapes.

**Exposure:** full sun; partial sun, however plants are most colorful when grown in full sun

**Height:** 4 feet tall, up to 5 feet wide

**Plant type:** annual in all but southernmost Texas

**Planting time:** spring after last frost

**Soil type:** requires a well-drained soil or container potting mix and will tolerate a wide range of pH

**Suggested uses:** container or accent plant

**Special notes:** Variegated tapioca is a heat lover and does not grow vigorously until the night temperatures are consistently above 60° F. It will exhibit chilling injury when night temperatures dip below 50° F. Keep the growing medium moist, and mulch if planted in the soil. Plants will grow just as well in alkaline soil as they will in acidic soils. They are somewhat tolerant to foliar salt exposure in the Coastal Bend area.



### Pride-of-Barbados

*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*

Pride of Barbados is an evergreen shrub or small tree in frost-free climates, a deciduous shrub in zone 9, a returning perennial in zone 8 and an annual in North and West Texas. Pride-of-Barbados dies to the ground following frost or freezing temperatures, but in zone 8b (South Central Texas) it comes back reliable in middle spring. Pride-of-Barbados has incredibly showy blossoms of orange and red. The striking orange-red flowers are an attention grabber!

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 8-12 feet

**Plant type:** summer annual, perennial, or woody shrub depending upon the severity of winter temperatures

**Planting time:** spring to early summer

**Soil type:** very easy to grow in alkaline to acidic, well-drained soils

**Suggested uses:** use as a specimen or in a mixed shrub border

**Special notes:** Plants tolerate very high temperatures and drought, but do not tolerate poorly drained soils. Pride-of-Barbados is best grown in raised beds in humid climates.

*Photo provided and copyrighted by Dr. Michael Arnold, Texas AgriLife Research*



### Caricature Plant

*Graptophyllum pictum*

Caricature Plant is an excellent summer annual for a wide range of light conditions from full sun to dense shade. Several new cultivars on the market offer foliage that varies from dark green or chocolate bronze with creamy white centers to tri-color foliage with various combinations of green, white, cream and pink.

**Exposure:** full sun to dense shade

**Height:** 2-4 feet as an annual, to 6-8 feet as a tropical shrub

**Plant type:** summer annual (cold climates) or woody shrub (tropics)

**Planting time:** anytime from containers as a shrub, late spring for use as a summer annual

**Soil type:** tolerant of most soils as long as they remain moist during the growing season

**Suggested uses:** ideal for those transition beds from sunny courtyards to the dense shade of entryways; can also be used in interiorscapes and containers.

**Special notes:** Caricature Plant is very heat tolerant, but wilts under drought conditions; it is cold sensitive and can be damaged by temperatures much below 55° F.

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### Thyralis or Shower-of-Gold

*Galphimia glauca*

*Galphimia gracilis*

As the name implies, Shower-of-Gold offers season-long spikes of bright, yellow flowers; flowers are mostly held at or above the dark-green to blue-green foliage; with periodic pruning, plants develop a dense handsome canopy with enough flowers to draw the eye from a distance.

**Exposure:** full sun to very light shade

**Height:** 3-5 feet

**Plant type:** woody shrub (South Texas) or summer annual (North Texas)

**Planting time:** anytime from containers as a shrub, spring as a summer annual

**Soil type:** tolerant of most soils as long as they are well drained

**Suggested uses:** general-purpose evergreen shrub in warmer portions of Texas; tolerates summer heat as a patio container; nice background for perennial or annual borders in South Texas.

**Special notes:** This plant blooms whenever temperatures permit; annual pruning will maintain a denser habit and plants work well when pruned back as a sub-shrub or herbaceous perennial.

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### Blue Princess Verbena

*Verbena x hybrida*

"Blue Princess"

This butterfly-attracting, easy care perennial has masses of beautiful, lavender blue flowers.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 12 inches

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring

**Soil type:** well-drained soil

**Suggested uses:** bedding plant, containers, baskets, perennial border, butterfly and hummingbird gardens

**Special notes:** The Blue Princess verbena blooms early spring through late fall. Shear between bloom cycles to promote new blooms.



## Vinca Cora and Nirvana Series

*Catharanthus roseus*

Cora and Nirvana vinca (commonly referred to as periwinkle) are the first varieties of this species to be resistant to the Aerial Phytophthora fungus, a devastating disease that until now limited the use of this species in Texas landscapes. In addition, they are heat and humidity tolerant and deer resistant. They are available in a wide array of colors with either upright or trailing habits and flower throughout the summer with some of the largest flowers in the genus.

**Exposure:** full sun, but will tolerate semi-shade

**Height:** 14-18 inches

**Plant type:** annual

**Planting time:** late spring to summer

**Soil type:** adaptable to most soils

**Suggested uses:** bedding, containers, hanging baskets (trailing types), window boxes

**Special notes:** The best time to plant vinca is after the soil has thoroughly warmed in late spring or early summer. It does best in hot weather. It is drought tolerant, but does best with good soil drainage and regular water and fertilization at moderate levels.

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## Texas Lilac Vitex

*Vitex agnus-castus*

The Texas Lilac Vitex, also known as Mexican lavender, is a small-flowering tree and grows best when planted in full sun and in a location that drains well.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** 10-15 feet

**Plant type:** large deciduous woody shrub or small tree

**Planting time:** anytime from containers

**Soil type:** adapts to most soils from acidic to moderately alkaline with moderate drainage

**Suggested uses:** accent, shrub border, seasonal screen or limbed up as a small ornamental tree

**Special notes:** Texas Lilac Vitex needs periodic renewal pruning to remove old dead wood. It prospers in hot and dry environments. The Texas Department of Transportation recognizes its toughness and plants vitex in highway medians. It is also a spectacular butterfly-attracting plant. The three cultivars of Texas Lilac available are Le Compte, Shoal Creek and Montrose Purple.



## Texas Dawn

*Nymphaea spp.*

Texas Dawn received the International Water Lily Society's 1990 American Award. It can be expected to produce seven to eight blooms at a time by mid-summer. Texas Dawn produces rich yellow flowers with outer petals blushed pink, greenish yellow with pink border sepal and deep yellow anthers. Flower size is 3-8 inches with a lemony fragrance.

**Exposure:** full sun

**Height:** flowers grow 3-8 inches above the surface of the water

**Plant type:** perennial

**Planting time:** spring-summer when water temperature is 70-85° F

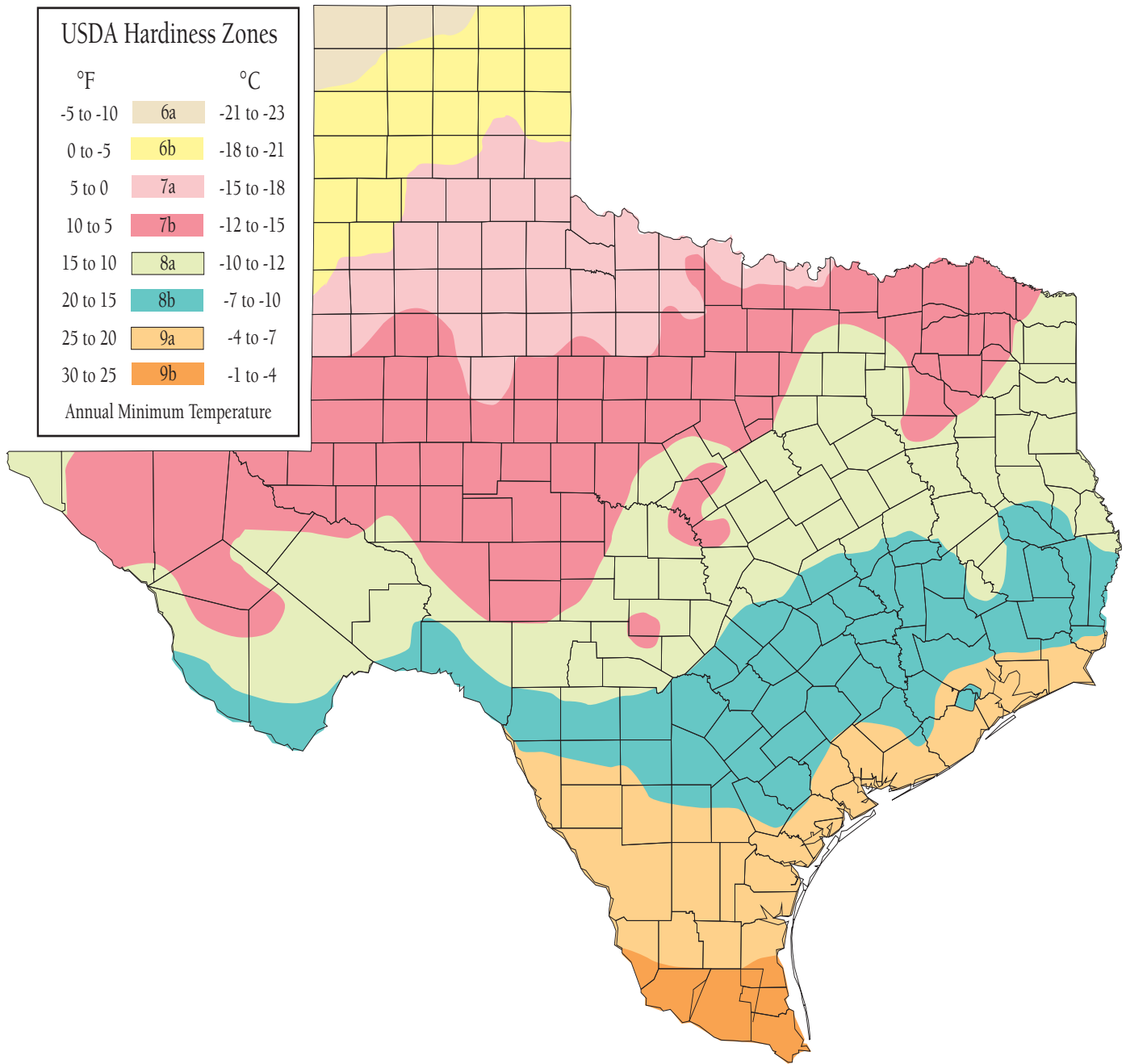
**Soil type:** heavy clay

**Suggested uses:** ponds, cut flowers, dry flowers

**Special notes:** Green top leaves speckled purple with purple undersides. Leaves are 8 inches with a 3-5 foot spread. Even though Texas Dawn requires full sun, it is one of a few varieties that can bloom with three hours of sun daily, increasing your landscaping options. In some instances Texas Dawn can produce up to three blooms per day. Other well-adapted water lily varieties include Clyde Ikins, Colorado, Laydekeri Fulgens, Panama Pacific, Perry's Double White, Red Flare and Star of Siam.



## USDA Hardiness Zones



Texas Superstars perform best at the hardiness zones indicated; however, Texas Superstars are widely adapted across the state.

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