



John Cooper
Denton County Extension Horticulturist
306 North Loop 288, Suite 222
Denton Texas 76209-4887
phone: 940-349-2887
fax: 940-349-2881
email: jn-cooper@tamu.edu

Plants to Grow with Minimal Irrigation According to their Use in the Landscape

Shade Trees (evergreen)

Live oak (either southern or escarpment)

Shade Trees (deciduous)

Pawnee Pecan (Pawnee is first choice but if you want nuts you need to plant Sioux as a pollinator)
Shumard oak (good fall color in 85% of individuals - 15% stick dried brown over the winter)
Bur oak (great tree - oak wilt resistant - stately oak - good replacement/filler for post oak)
Bald cypress (very long lived - great for wet spots - completely drought hardy in seven years)
Lacebark elm (cultivars have different growth habits - look for 'Emerald Vase')

Foundation shrubs (evergreen)

Dwarf Chinese horned holly (*Illex cornuta* cultivar: 'Rotunda' - toughest plant alive at 5')
Carrisa holly (same species as toughest plant alive but a different cultivar: 'Carrisa' at 4')
Dwarf yaupon holly (fine-textured leaves - most popular of all foundation shrubs at 3')
Nana nandina (cultivar 'Nana' one of the toughest nandina cultivars)
Harbor Dwarf nandina (cultivar 'Harbour Dwarf' is one of the best all round plants at 3')

Corner plantings (evergreen)

Glossy abelia (a shower of tiny white fragrant blossoms all summer, April - October)
Variegated privet (creamy yellow foliage - informal mounding shape to 8' or more)
Heavenly bamboo (the species: *Nandina domestica* - good color and interest to 7' - wildlife)
Dwarf burford holly (same species as 'Carrisa' and 'Rotunda' cultivar: 'Burfordii Nana' at 7')

Accent plants (evergreen)

leatherleaf mahonia (interesting foliage and fruit - needs shade)

Accent plants (deciduous)

Japanese barberry (needs sun - deep red summer foliage - 'Atropurpurea' to 5' or 'Nana' to 2')

Ground covers (evergreen)

English ivy (shade -best but requires heavy pruning off trees, walls, decks, etc. once per year)
Mondograss (sun or shade - one foot - drought tolerant - invasive unless in restricted space)
Asian jasmine (most popular evergreen ground cover in this area - may go brown Jan-April)
Vinca major (prefers shade but will tolerate sun - grows to 18" - covers fast)
Dwarf nandina ('Harbour Dwarf' nandina is among our best groundcovers at 3 feet)

Ground covers (deciduous)

Coral berry (common native ground cover in native oak forest - 2' tall - pink berries in winter)

Virginia creeper (common native groundcover and climbing vine - 1' tall - fall yellow foliage)

Southern wood fern (dies to ground in fall but returns each spring - drought hardy)

Climbing vines (evergreen)

Crossvine (native - sun or shade - the best screening vine - bloom only lasts three weeks)

Coral honeysuckle (native - sun or shade - good screen plus it blooms on and off all year)

Climbing Vines (deciduous)

Virginia creeper (native - excellent deciduous climbing vine - makes great summer screen)

Grape (native - 'Champanel' is hardiest and most fruitful - great for red wine and wildlife)

Screening plants (evergreen)

Eldarica pine (a.k.a. Eldarica pine toughest pine known - retains leaves to ground - tolerates alkaline soils)

Yaupon holly (may be our best screening plant to 20')

Burford holly (dense dark green glossy foliage - one of best plants to 20')

Dwarf burford holly (dense dark green glossy foliage - one of our best plants to 7')

'Nellie R. Stevens' holly (very popular for screening to 20')

'Dazzler' holly (more spreading form of *Illex cornuta* to 10' - lustrous foliage is dazzling)

Chinese photinia (one of the best screening plants of all time - beautiful berries - wildlife)

Antique roses (lots of good ones - addictive - collectors beware)

Glossy abelia (one of my all time favorites - it is one of the most versatile plants on the globe)

Nandina domestica (red foliage in sun, white spring blossoms, red berries fall through winter - versatile to 7')

Specimen plants (evergreen)

Yaupon holly (weeping form cultivar: 'Pendula' at 10' to 15' is more interesting than species)

Specimen plants (deciduous)

Redbud (native - beautiful profusion of spring fuchsia blossoms last a month)

Eve's necklace (pendulous spring panicles and decorative black string of pearls in winter)

Crape myrtles (blooms all summer in sun - every size and color available - hardy plant)

Flame-leaf sumac (native - interesting foliage all summer and early red foliage in fall -wildlife)

Flowering japonica ('Spitfire' brilliant crimson color - intersperse in mixed borders)

Forsythia (old-fashion lemon-yellow bloomer - 3 to 4 weeks in early spring - under 8')

Vanhoutte spirea (*Spirea x vanhutei* - profusion of white blooms - 2 weeks in early spring - 6')

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