

OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPE PLANTS FOR NORTHEAST TEXAS

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This compilation of landscape plants for northeast Texas is intended to be used as a guide for selecting plants that are proven performers. Input for the list came from leading horticulturists, growers, gardeners and nurserymen from throughout the region. The following plants are hardy, reliable, lack major problems and are available in our area. There are many other good plants which also merit attention; not everyone's favorite will be on the list. However, you can be sure these will thrive in your landscape if given reasonable care. Photos of most plants can be viewed at:

<http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/> under Home Gardening/Landscape Plants section

Plants are listed alphabetically within categories by **common name**, followed by - (other common names), botanical name, light preference, evergreen or deciduous, along with comments regarding cultivars, special needs or attributes, and average landscape width. (**N**) = Native

Within some categories, some plant groups may have several outstanding members, such as hollies and oaks. A few species or varieties are listed to highlight some of the best in that group.

GROUNDCOVERS

Ajuga - (Carpet Bugle); *Ajuga reptans*; partial shade to shade; 'Catlin's Giant', 'Chocolate Chip'

Asiatic Jasmine - *Trachelospermum asiaticum*; sun to shade; several cultivars – strong spreader, not for small areas

English Ivy - *Hedera helix*; shade; also a clinging vine; many cultivars. Not for painted surfaces; keep out of trees; can get out of control; not for small areas.

Ferns - several types. Evergreen: holly fern, autumn fern, tassel fern, Christmas fern; Deciduous: wood fern, Japanese painted fern; shade; 2' wide (some N)

Juniper - *Juniperus spp*; sun; several selections including: 'Blue Pacific', 'Bar Harbor', 'Blue Chip', 'Shore', 'Green Mound'; *J. procumbens* (Japanese garden juniper); 'Blue Rug'; 5' wide

Liriope - (Lily Turf); *Liriope muscari*; shade; several selections including: 'Majestic', 'Big Blue', 'Variegated'; 'Silvery Sunproof'; clumps 1' wide. *L. spicata*— strong spreading species.

Mondo grass - (Monkeygrass); *Ophiopogon japonicus*; partial shade to shade; cultivars include: 'Nanus' (dwarf), 'Nigrescens' (black)

Pachysandra - (Japanese Spurge); *Pachysandra terminalis*; shade. 'Green Sheen'

Japanese Sweet Flag – *Acorus graminus*; sun to shade; evergreen; slow spreader; 'Ogon', 'Oborouki'

Sedum – several types, sun to part shade; good for small areas.

Golden Oregano – *Oreganum vulgare* 'Aureum'; sun; evergreen; drought tolerant

VINES - Perennial Types:

Boston Ivy - *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*; sun to partial shade; deciduous (N)

Carolina Jessamine - *Gelsemium sempervirens*; sun to partial shade; semi-evergreen (N)

Clematis - *Clematis spp.*; sun to partial shade; deciduous to semi-evergreen; many species & cultivars; keep roots cool, in shade, top in sun (some N such as *C. texana*)

Coral Honeysuckle - (Trumpet Honeysuckle); *Lonicera sempervirens*; sun to partial shade; evergreen (N)

Crossvine - *Bignonia capreolata*; sun to partial shade; semi-evergreen; 'Tangerine Beauty' (N)

Fig Ivy - (Climbing Fig); *Ficus pumila*; sun to partial shade; for painted surfaces; evergreen (foliage may burn in winter)

Kadsura – *Kadsura japonica*; sun to part shade; evergreen; green and variegated ('Fukurin') varieties; not common in trade

Wisteria - *Wisteria frutescens*; sun; deciduous (N); oriental types aggressive and not recommended

VINES - Annual Types:

Cardinal Climber; Hyacinth Bean; gourds; Mandevilla; Black-eyed Susan Vine (*Thunbergia alata*); Blue Skyflower (*Thunbergia grandiflora*) – blooms late

DWARF SHRUBS - (up to 4 feet) (some with occasional shearing)

Autumn Sage – *Salvia gregii*; sun; semi-evergreen; long summer blooming season; many cultivars (N)

Azaleas - *Rhododendron spp.*; morning sun to light shade; semi-evergreen; small types include Gumpo & some Satsuki varieties; 'Coral Bells', 'Watchet', 'Wakaebisu', 'Higasa', 'Autumn Embers', 'Autumn Chiffon', 3' - 4' wide

Barberry (dwarf varieties) - *Berberis spp.*; sun; deciduous to semi-evergreen; 'Crimson Pygmy', 'Kobold', *B. buxifolia* 'Nana'; 3' - 4' wide

Boxwood - *Buxus microphylla*; sun to partial shade; evergreen; 'Wintergreen', Japanese boxwood; 1' - 4' wide

Chinese Fringe-Flower – *Loropetalum chinense* 'Shang-lo' (Purple Pixie™); sun; evergreen. New very dwarf variety

Dwarf Gardenia - *Gardenia jasminoides* 'Radicans'; sun to part shade; evergreen; whiteflies occasionally a problem; 2' - 3' wide

Holly - *Ilex spp.*; sun to shade; evergreen; several excellent species and cultivars: *I. vomitoria* 'Nana', 'Schillings' (dwarf yaupon holly - N); *I. cornuta* - 'Carissa', 'Rotunda' (dwarf Chinese holly); *I. crenata* - 'Helleri', 'Compacta' (dwarf Japanese holly); 3'-5' wide

Japanese Plum Yew – *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* 'Prostrata'; part sun to shade; evergreen; 4' - 6' wide

Junipers - *Juniperus spp*; sun; evergreen; 'Tam Juniper'; 4' wide

Indian Hawthorn - *Rhaphiolepis indica*; sun; evergreen; 'Enchantress', 'Pinkie', 'Clara' and other dwarf varieties; 3' - 4' wide Note: Entomosporium leaf spot can be problem in shaded, moist locations.

Dwarf Crape Myrtles - *Lagerstroemia* (hybrid dwarf varieties); sun; deciduous; 'Pokomoke' and 'Chickasaw' newer hybrids resistant to powdery mildew; 3' wide

Nandina - *Nandina domestica* (dwarf varieties); sun to partial shade; evergreen; color is best in full sun; 'Harbour Dwarf', 'Gulf Stream', 'Firepower'; 2' wide

Red Yucca – *Hesperaloe parviflora*; sun; evergreen; clumps of dark green narrow leaves from this agave relative; 4' – 5' tall red flower spikes. Drought & heat tolerant. 3' wide

Spirea - *Spirea xbulmalda*, *S. japonica*; sun; deciduous; 'Shirobana', 'Goldflame', 'Goldmound', 'Lime Mound', 'Magic Carpet', 'Little Prince', 'Heather'; 2' - 3' wide

Virginia Sweetspire – *Itea virginica*; sun to part shade; semi-evergreen to deciduous; spreading by suckers with open growth habit; 'Henry's Garnet' 5' – 6' wide (N)

MEDIUM SHRUBS (4 to 9 feet)

Abelia - (Glossy Abelia); *Abelia grandiflora*; sun to partial shade; semi-evergreen; 'Compacta', 'Edward Goucher', 'Sherwoodii', 'Francis Mason', 'Kaleidoscope', 'Hopely'; 4' – 6' wide

Aucuba - (Gold Dust Aucuba); *Aucuba japonica*; shade (no direct sun); evergreen; 'Variegata' (Gold Dust), 'Picturata'; 3' wide

Azalea - *Rhododendron spp.*; morning sun to shade; semi-evergreen or deciduous; many varieties; 3' - 8' wide

Barberry - (Japanese Barberry); *Berberis thunbergii*; sun; semi-evergreen; 'Atropurpurea', 'Rose Glow'; 4' - 5' wide

Bridal Wreath – *Spirea x vanhouttei*, *S. thunbergii*; sun to partial shade; deciduous; white flowers early spring; 5' – 10' wide

Camellia - *Camellia japonica*, *C. sasanqua*; partial sun; evergreen; hundreds of varieties; Sasanqua varieties bloom early winter, often escaping freeze damage, while Japanese camellias bloom mid to late winter and can suffer bloom damage unless in a protected location; 4' - 15' wide

Chinese Fringe Bush – *Loropetalum chinense* 'Purple Diamond'; sun; new variety with more compact growth habit; 4' – 5' wide

Cleyera - *Ternstroemia gymnanthera*; sun to partial shade; evergreen; 5' – 6' wide

Crape Myrtle - *Lagerstroemia indica*; semi-dwarf varieties; sun; deciduous; range of sizes, colors; look for newer hybrid, intermediate sizes with powdery mildew resistance; 5'- 12' wide

Fatsia – *Fatsia japonica*; shade; evergreen; bold texture; 6' – 10' wide

Holly - *Ilex cornuta*; sun; evergreen; 'Dwarf Burford', 'Berries Jubilee', 'Dazzler'; 'Needle Point'; 4' - 8' wide depending on variety

Hydrangea – Bigleaf Hydrangea - *Hydrangea macrophylla*; **Oakleaf Hydrangea** - *H. quercifolia*;

partial shade; deciduous; 4' – 8' wide

Indian Hawthorn - *Rhaphiolepis indica*; sun; evergreen; several cultivars; Note: Entomosporium leaf spot can be problem in shaded, moist locations. 4' - 6' wide

Juniper - *Juniperus spp*; sun; evergreen; 'Compact Pfitzer', 'Sea Green', 'Blue Vase', 'Blue Point', 'Pfitzer', others; 6' - 9' wide

Leatherleaf Mahonia – *Mahonia bealei*; shade; upright growth; attractive yellow flowers and blue fruit; 3' 4' wide

Nandina - *Nandina domestica*; sun to partial shade; evergreen; 3' - 4' wide

Roses – *Rosa spp.* sun; semi-evergreen; shrub type; 'Knockout' and related varieties & Earth-Kind selections with disease resistance; 4'-6' wide

Texas Sage - (Ceniza); *Leucophyllum frutescens*; sun; evergreen; several cultivars; 4' wide (N)

LARGE SHRUBS (over 9 feet) – (some good candidates for screening)

Althea (Rose of Sharon) – *Hibiscus syriacus*; sun to partial shade; deciduous; old fashioned favorite with many colors; 6' – 10' wide

Banana Shrub - *Michelia figo*; partial shade; evergreen; highly fragrant flowers; 6' – 10' wide

Camellia - *Camellia japonica*, *C. sasanqua*; partial sun; evergreen; hundreds of varieties; Sasanqua varieties bloom early winter, often escaping freeze damage, while Japanese camellias bloom mid to late winter and can suffer bloom damage unless in a protected location; 4' - 15' wide

Cherry Laurel - *Prunus caroliniana*; compact variety available ('Bright 'n Tight', 'Compacta' 8' to 10' tall); sun to partial shade; evergreen; can grow into small tree; 14' - 16' wide (N)

Chinese Fringe Shrub – *Loropetalum chinense*; sun; evergreen; rubrum varieties (many) with reddish-purple foliage and pink flowers; old-fashioned variety has green leaves and white flowers; can grow up to 15' tall; up to 8' wide

Crape Myrtle - *Lagerstroemia spp*; sun; deciduous; hybrid varieties with mildew resistance; 8' - 10' wide

Elaeagnus - *Elaeagnus spp*; sun to partial shade; evergreen; 'Ebbingei', 'Fruitlandii'; 5' – 10' wide

Holly - *Ilex spp*; several types; sun; evergreen; 'Nellie R. Stevens', 'Foster's', 'Savannah', 'Needlepoint'; Yaupon, 'Festive' and other "Red Holly" varieties"; 6' - 15' wide (depending on variety)

Japanese Yew - *Podocarpus macrophylla*; sun to shade; evergreen; 8' wide

Juniper - *Juniperus spp*; sun; evergreen; many cultivars including 'Skyrocket', 'Blue Point', 'Hollywood'; 6' - 8' wide

Photinia, Chinese - *Photinia serrulata*; sun; evergreen; can grow into small tree; 10' - 15' wide

Southern Wax Myrtle - *Myrica cerifera*; sun to partial shade; evergreen; 8' - 12' wide (N)

SMALL TREES (under 25 feet)

Crape Myrtle - *Lagerstroemia* spp; sun; deciduous; comes in many sizes and forms; hybrids, many with Indian names have powdery mildew resistance, attractive bark, showy blooms; 15' - 20' wide

Dogwood - *Cornus florida*; partial sun; deciduous; white and pink varieties; well-drained acid soil; give protection from full sun, difficult to establish; 15' - 20' wide (N)

Fringetree - (Grancy Greybeard); *Chionanthus virginicus*; also *C. retusus* - Chinese Fringetree; sun to partial shade; deciduous; acid soil; 15' wide (N)

Holly - *Ilex* spp; sun to shade; Yaupon Holly, *I. vomitoria* (evergreen); Possum Haw or Deciduous Holly, *I. decidua* (deciduous); only female plants bear fruit; 10' wide (both N)

Japanese Black Pine - *Pinus thunbergiana*; sun; evergreen; 25' wide

Japanese Maple - *Acer palmatum*, *A. japonicum*; partial sun to high shade; deciduous; many cultivars with different forms, most with dramatic fall color; 10' - 15' wide

Magnolia: (deciduous types); sun to part shade; Saucer or Tulip Magnolia - *M. soulangiana*; Star Magnolia - *M. stellata*; and *M. hybrids*; (Little Girl cultivars); (**evergreen type**): *M. grandiflora* 'Little Gem' – very compact variety (N); 15' wide

Mexican Plum – *Prunus mexicana*; sun; deciduous; (N)

Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*; sun; deciduous; 'Oklahoma', 'Forest Pansy'; 'Avondale' (*C. chinensis*); 15' - 25' wide (N)

Vitex - (Lavender Tree); *Vitex agnus-castus*; sun; deciduous; lilac blooms; 15' wide

MEDIUM TREES (25 to 50 feet)

American Holly - *Ilex opaca*; sun to shade; evergreen; slow to moderate growth; only female plants bear fruit; 15' - 20' wide (N)

Cedar Elm – *Ulmus crassifolia*; sun; deciduous; tolerates drought, heavy soils; 40' – 60' wide (N)

Chinese Pistache - *Pistacia chinensis*; sun; deciduous; reliable fall color; Texas SuperStar; 30' - 40' wide

Crabapple - *Malus* spp; sun; deciduous; 20 to 25 feet; select disease resistant cultivars; 25' wide

Crape Myrtle – *Lagerstroemia*; Several cultivars attain heights of 25 – 30' tall; look for hybrid varieties (many with Indian tribe names) with resistance to powdery mildew. 20' – 30' wide

Lacebark Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia*; sun to partial shade; deciduous; attractive bark; 35' - 50' wide

Magnolia - *Magnolia* spp; sun to partial shade; some *M. grandiflora* (**Southern Magnolia**) cultivars stay small (N); *M. x soulangiana* (**Saucer or Tulip Magnolia**); 15' - 40' wide

Maple, Red - *Acer rubrum*; sun; deciduous; beautiful fall color; 25' - 30' wide

Maple, other species - *Acer barbatum* (Texas Sugar Maple) (N), *A. leucoderme* (Chalk Maple) (N); *A. truncatum* (Shantung Maple); deciduous; sun; 25' - 30' wide

LARGE TREES (over 50 feet)

Bald Cypress - *Taxodium distichum*; sun; deciduous; tolerates wet soils; similar species – *T. ascendens* (Pond Cypress) & *T. mucronatum* (Monterrey Cypress); 30' - 40' wide (N)

Blackgum - *Nyssa sylvatica*; sun; deciduous; fall color; tolerates wet soils, slow growing; 30' wide (N)

Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba*; sun; deciduous; slow growing, brilliant yellow fall color; look for male (fruitless) varieties; 40' wide

Maple - *Acer rubrum*; sun; deciduous; Red Maple most common, Trident Red Maple and Drummond Red Maple frequently grown; *A. barbatum* - Southern Sugar Maple; 25' - 30' wide (N)

Oaks - *Quercus spp.*; sun; many species - among highest rated are: Shumard Red Oak, *Q. shumardii* (deciduous); Live Oak, *Q. virginiana* (evergreen); Willow Oak, *Q. phellos* (deciduous); White Oak, *Q. alba* (deciduous); 40' - 70' wide (N)

Pecan - *Carya illinoensis*; sun; deciduous; can be messy; look for recommended varieties; consider native, ungrafted trees; 40' - 60' wide (N)

River Birch - *Betula nigra*; sun; deciduous; attractive peeling bark; 'Heritage' and improved variety; 30' – 60' wide (N)

Southern Magnolia - *Magnolia grandiflora*; sun to partial shade; evergreen; drops leaves all year; turf doesn't grow underneath; consider leaving branches full to the ground; 30' - 50' wide (N)

Sweetgum - *Liquidamber styraciflua*; sun; deciduous; 'Rotundiloba' is a fruitless variety; 30' – 50' wide (N)

Tulip Poplar - (Yellow Poplar); *Liriodendron tulipifera*; sun; deciduous; fast-growing; gets very large, needs room and good drainage; not for small properties; 30' - 50' wide (N)

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