



Recommended Plants For The Kerrville Area

Compiled and Special Thanks: John Coleman,
Environmental Education Committee,
and The City of Kerrville



We have many blessings in Kerr Country – An enjoyable climate with distinct seasons, a rural setting with cultural amenities befitting a large city, tree-shrouded hills and valleys that explode in spring wildflowers and blaze in fall color, and much, much more. What we are not blessed with is an environment suitable for growing a wide variety of plants, including some that are very popular elsewhere. The reasons for this are:

Soil. Our topsoil is characterized as being shallow (as little as two inches above rock) and very alkaline. Yet, most of the plants available in the nursery trade do best in neutral to slightly acid soil, and thrive in the Houston/Dallas corridor and eastward. These plants, when planted in our alkaline soil, will sooner or later become chlorotic, evidenced by yellowing leaves with veins remaining green. This condition of stress, unless corrected by changing the soil ph, will ultimately result in plant failure.

Climate Extremes. Our climate is highly variable, ranging in temperature from as low as minus 7 degrees to as high as 110 degrees. While these are absolute extremes, lows in the single digits and highs above 100 degrees are not uncommon. Rainfall is also highly variable, with a record low of 14 inches and a record high of 55 inches, averaging 31 inches per year. In some years there is no appreciable rain for many months – a drought, resulting in mandatory water conservation measures, including restrictions on landscape irrigation. Droughts are not unusual here-since they have occurred in three of the last six years before 2001. Therefore, landscape plants here must be able to survive high and low temperature extremes and severe droughts.

Deer. Kerr Country abounds in deer, which will eat and destroy many varieties of landscape plants. In fact, few plants can be considered deer-proof, because if deer get hungry enough, they will eat just about any plant, including some natives. If we wish to have long-lasting plants in our landscapes, we should plant deer-resistant plants-those that are low on a list of plants deer prefer to eat.

Plants that do not tolerate alkaline soil, or cannot survive our extremes of temperature, or last for months without rain, or are subject to browsing by deer will not live here very long. What plants then can live here? Obviously native plants, for they have long survived the area's harsh conditions. But also, there are a number of other, non-native plants that are sufficiently adaptive here as to resemble the natives in performance. Landscaping with both native and adaptive plants tends to provide more interesting and attractive landscapes.

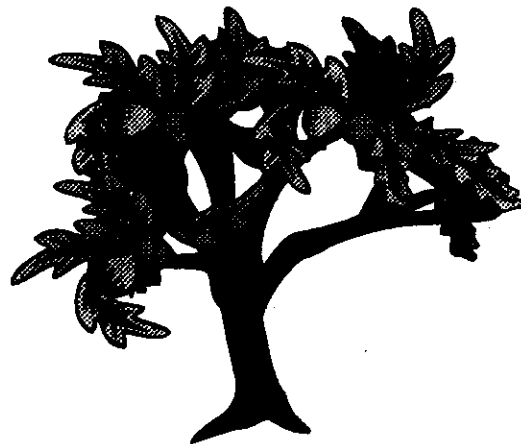
The following list of recommended plants for landscaping in this area has been developed from various sources, including local growers, landscape designers and contractors, the Native Plant Society, and the Riverside Nature Center. Our hope is to assist the public in creating low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, long-lasting, and attractive landscapes.

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LARGE TREES	NATIVE /	USUAL	FOLIAGE (1)	COMMENTS
	ADAPTIVE	HEIGHT, FT.		
Cedar Elm	Native	50	D	Upright growth habit, makes good shade tree
Chinese Pistache	Adaptive	45	D	Fantastic fall color, relatively fast grower, drought tolerant, insect/disease resistant
Cypress	Native	100	D	For moist areas, fall color
Montezuma Cypress	Near-Native	100	D	Cousin to River Cypress, faster grower
River Cypress	Native	100	D	For moist areas, fall color
Escarpment Black Cherry	Native	60	D	Spring flowers, golden orange fall color
Maple				
Big Tooth Maple	Native	45	D	Only maple for area, fantastic fall color
Shantung Maple	Adaptive	25	D	A Texas superstar™ tree, red fall color
Oak Trees				
Bur Oak	Near-Native	80	D	Large, beautiful tree
Chinquapin Oak	Native	50	D	Beautifully shaped shade tree
Lacey Oak	Native	45	D	Attractive blue/gray foliage
Mexican Oak	Adaptive	75	S	Semi-evergreen, fast growing
Texas Ash	Native	30	D	Strong, long life, good shade tree, attractive fall color

NOTES:

1) Legend: D = Deciduous, E= Evergreen, S = Semi-Evergreen



ORNAMENTAL TREES	NATIVE / ADAPTIVE	DEER RESISTANT	USUAL HEIGHT , FT	FOLI-AGE (1)	COMMENTS
Bradford Pear	Adaptive	No	25	D	White spring blooms, red fall color, plant in good soil - not caliche
Crape Myrtle	Adaptive	No	Varies	D	Deciduous, smooth bark, summer flowers, various sizes & colors
Desert Willow	Native	Yes	30	D	Pink or burgundy Orchid-like flowers in summer, full sun
Eve's Necklace	Native	Yes	20	D	Good understory tree, pink spring flowers & interesting fruit seed pods
Holly					
Possumhaw	Native	Yes	15	D	Red berries remain after leaf drop
Weeping Yaupon	Hybrid of Native	Yes	15	E	Pyramidal habit, pendulous branches
Yaupon	Native	Yes	25	E	Excellent small specimen tree, red berries in winter
Lavender Tree (VITEX)	Adaptive	Yes	20	D	Blue flower spikes in summer
Loquat	Adaptive	Yes	20	E	Tropical look, moderately drought tolerant
Mexican Buckeye	Native	Yes	20	D	Multitrunk understory tree, pink blooms in spring
Mexican Plum	Native	No	20	D	Understory, white blooms in spring, will need supplemental water during drought
Rusty Blackhaw	Native	Yes	15	D	White flowers, blue/black fruit, understory tree, great fall color
Sumac					
Evergreen	Native	Yes	12	E	White flowers in late summer, red berries in fall.
Flame leaf	Native	Yes	20	D	Red fall color, suckers a lot
Texas Madrone	Native	No	30	E	Multi-trunk, understory, slow growing, red berries in fall.
Texas Mountain Laurel	Native	Yes	25	E	Purple spring flowers, watch for caterpillars, unusual bark
Texas Persimmon	Native	Yes	30	D	Smooth bark makes an interesting specimen, small black edible fruit
Texas Pistache	Native	Yes	20	E	Red berries in fall, multi-trunk
Texas Redbud	Native	Yes	20	D	Pink spring flowers, good understory tree, best if protected from west sun
Vasey Oak	Native	No	25	S	Good specimen tree for small areas, semi evergreen, Holly-like leaves
Wax Myrtle	Adaptive	Yes	12	E	Can tolerate wet areas, but also some what drought tolerant

PERENNIALS	DEER	NATIVE /	COLOR	BLOOM PERIOD	SIZE
COMMON NAME	RESISTANT	ADAPTIVE			
Bitterweed (<i>Hymenoxys Scaposa</i>)	Yes	Native	Yellow	Spring to Fall	1'
Blackfoot Daisy (<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i>)	Yes	Native	White	Spring to Fall	1'
Brown-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia goldsturn</i>)	Yes	Native	Yellow	Spring to Summer	2'
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleia davidii</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Purple/blue/ yellow	Spring to Fall	3 to 6'
Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	Yes	Native	Orange	Summer to Fall	2 to 3'
Copper Canyon Daisy (<i>Tagetes lemmonii</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Yellow	Fall	3'
Coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis sp.</i>)	Yes	Native	Yellow, orange	Spring to Fall	1 ft.
Damianita (<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i>)	Yes	Native	Yellow	Spring to Fall	2
Daylily (<i>Hemerocallis sp.</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Many colors	Spring to Summer	1 to 3'
Fall Aster (<i>Aster sp.</i>)	No	Native	Purple	Fall	3 to 4'
False Plumbaginoides (<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>)	No	Adaptive	Blue	Summer to Fall	2'
(<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>)	Yes	Native	White/pink	Spring to Fall	3'
Hill Country Penstemon (<i>Penstemon triflorus</i>)	Yes	Native	Magenta	Spring	1 to 2'
Hinckley's Columbine (<i>Aquilegia hinckleyana</i>)	Yes	Native	Yellow	Early spring	18"
Indian Blanket (<i>Gaillardia sp.</i>)	Yes	Native	Red,yellow	Spring to Fall	18"
Iris (<i>Iridaceae sp.</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Various	Spring	2'
Lantana (<i>Lantana sp.</i>)	Yes	Adaptive/ Native	Many colors	Spring to Fall	1 to 4'
Lily of the Nile (<i>Agapanthus sp.</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Blue/white	Summer	2'
Gaura					
Lindheimer Butterflies	Yes	Native	White/pink	Spring to Fall	3'
Mexican Mint Marigold (<i>Tagetes lucida</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Yellow	Fall	2'

PERENNIALS	DEER	NATIVE/	COLOR	BLOOM PEIOD	SIZE
COMMON NAME	RESISTANT	ADAPTIVE			
Mexican Oregano (<i>Poliomentha longiflora</i>)	Yes	Native	Pink	Summer	1 to 2'
Mexican Petunia (<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i>)	No	Adaptive	Blue/Pink Or White	Summer to Fall	3'
Dwarf Mexican Petunia (<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> "Katie")	No	Adaptive	Blue/Pink or White	Summer to Fall	6" to 1'
Narcissus (<i>Amaryllidaceae</i> sp.)	Yes	Adaptive	White/yellow	Spring	1 1/2'
Powis Castle Artemesia (<i>Artemesia pontica</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Silver foliage	N/A	3 to 4'
Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>)	Yes	Native	Purple/pink	Spring to Fall	2'
Rock Rose (<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>)	No	Native	Pink	Spring to Fall	3 to 4'
Russian Sage (<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Blue/lavender	Summer to Fall	3 to 4'
Sage (<i>Salvia</i>)					
Mealy Blue Sage (<i>Salvia farnacea</i>)	Yes	Native	Blue/purple	Spring to Fall	2'
Mexican Bush Sage (<i>Salvia leucantha</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Blue/purple	Spring to Fall	3 to 4'
Scarlett Sage (<i>Salvia coccinea</i>)	Yes	Native	Red	Spring to Fall	2'
Skullcap					
Pink (<i>Scutellaria suffrutescens</i>)	Yes	Adaptive	Pink	Spring to Fall	1'
Purple (<i>Scutellariawrightii</i>)	Yes	Native	Purple	Spring to Fall	1'
Society Garlic (<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>)	Yes	Native	Lavender	Spring to Fall	1'
Square-bud Primrose (<i>Calyophys berlandieri</i>)	No	Native	Yellow	Spring to Fall	1 to 2'
Turk's Cap (<i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i>)	Yes	Native	Red	Spring to Fall	3 to 5'
Verbena (<i>Verbena</i> sp.)	Yes	Native	Many colors	Spring to Fall	6" to 1'
Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	Yes	Native	White/yellow	Spring to Summer	1 to 2'
Zexmania (<i>Wedelia hispida</i>)	Yes	Native	Orange	Late summer to Fall	1 to 2'

SHRUBS	DEER	NATIVE /	USUAL	Foliage	COMMENTS
	RESIS- TANT	ADAPTIVE	HEIGHT (FT)	(1)	
Abelia					
Dwarf Abelia	Yes	Adaptive	4	E	Medium evergreen with pink flowers in summer
Glossy Abelia	Yes	Adaptive	8	E	Large shrub with white flowers in summer
Acuba	Yes	Adaptive	4	E	Best with variegated leaves, shade
Agarita	Yes	Native	6	E	Holly-like foliage, red berries, yellow flowers in spring, needs good drainage
American Beautyberry	Yes	Native	5	D	Medium shrub, purple fruit in late summer, early fall
Bird of Paradise Bush	Yes	Adaptive	10	D	Large shrub or small tree spectacular red & yellow flowers in summer
Bridal Wreath Spirea	Yes	Adaptive	6	D	White spring flowers, sprawling growth
Cherry Sage	Yes	Native	3	S	Many colors, prune back in winter
Chile Pequin	Yes	Adaptive	2	D	Grows in sun or shade, hot peppers
Cholla Walking Stick	Yes	Native	5	E	Fast grower, pink flowers in May/June
Crape Myrtle	No	Adaptive	Various 2-30	D	Summer blooming, various colors
Eleagnus	Yes	Adaptive	8	E	Large dusty gray foliage, needs good drainage
Germander Dwarf	Yes	Adaptive	1	E	Compact, relative of natives
Flame Acanthus	Yes	Native	4	D	Orange/red flowers in summer and fall
Grey Leaf Cotonaster	Yes	Adaptive	5	E	Large sprawling shrub, dusty gray foliage, xeric
Holly					
Dwarf Burford	Yes	Adaptive	5	E	Compact, red berries in winter, might need iron & sulfur supplements
Dwarf Chinese	Yes	Adaptive	4	E	Compact round shape, red berries in winter, prickly leaves
Dwarf Yaupon	Yes	Dwf. Form of Native	3	E	Compact mounding, excellent heat and drought tolerance
"Mary Nell"	Yes	Adaptive	12	E	Upright, heavy berry producer, interesting foliage, may need acid/iron
"Nellie Stevens"	Yes	Adaptive	12	E	Upright, heavy berry producer, may need acid/iron
"Will Fleming" Yaupon	Yes	Hybrid of Native	12 to 15	E	Thin, columnal-shaped, compact, shrub