



DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS FOR THE RICHARDSON LANDSCAPE



Drought Tolerant Landscaping

The drought that North Texas has experienced for the past several years has introduced a new normal to the region, in which water conservation and limitations on watering will be a permanent part of how this vital resource is managed. With that in mind, Richardson residents and businesses should consider landscaping and trees that can withstand our local climate with little watering required.

As you will see in this guide, drought tolerant landscaping does not mean yards without color, without beauty or without greenery.

This publication can serve as a reference guide for selecting plants of all types: decorative flowers, shrubs, groundcover, and both ornamental and canopy trees. Recommendations are based on Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Earth-Kind database. The drought tolerant index that Earth-Kind uses is on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most drought tolerant. The plants in this guide are rated as 7.5 and above and are well suited for the North Texas environment.



For questions about this guide, please contact:

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Additional resources:

Native or Drought-Tolerant Plants

- Earth-Kind Landscape Index
aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plantselector
- Texas Smartscape
txsmartscape.com
- Texas Superstar Plants
texassuperstar.com
- Native Plant Society of Texas
npsot.org
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center at Dallas
dallas.tamu.edu

Water Supply and Conservation

- North Texas Municipal Water District
ntmwd.com
- City of Richardson Water Conservation
cor.net/WaterConservation

Table of Contents

Perennials.....	Pages 3–6
Shrubs.....	Pages 7–9
Groundcover	Pages 10–12
Ornamental Trees	Pages 13–15
Canopy Trees.....	Pages 16–19
Turf Information.....	Page 20



cor.net/WaterConservation
972-744-4220

grow and bloom over the spring and summer,
die back every autumn and winter, and then
return in the spring from their root-stock

PERENNIALS



Pg 4 American Beautyberry



Pg 5 Evening Primrose



Pg 6 Mexican Mint Marigold



Pg 4 Blackfoot Daisy



Pg 5 Giant Turk's Cap



Pg 6 Passionflowers



Pg 4 Blue Plumbago



Pg 5 Lanceleaf Coreopsis



Pg 6 Plains Coreopsis



Pg 4 Coralberry



Pg 5 Lantana



Pg 6 Rockrose



Pg 4 Dwarf Pomegranate



Pg 5 Mexican Hat



Pg 6 Stonecrop Sedum



AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY

Callicarpa americana

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 4–6 feet

Flowers: White-Pink, Purple-Pink

Bloom Period: Summer, Fall

BLACKFOOT DAISY

Melampodium leucanthum

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 6–12 inches

Flowers: White, Yellow

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



PERENNIALS

BLUE PLUMBAGO

Plumbago auriculata

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 2–4 feet

Flowers: Light Blue

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



DWARF POMEGRANATE *Punica granatum*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 2–3 feet

Flowers: Red-Orange

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall

CORALBERRY *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 2–4 feet

Flowers: Coral-Pink, Purple-Pink

Bloom Period: Summer





EVENING PRIMROSE

Oenothera speciosa

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 12–18 inches

Flowers: Pale Pink, Dark Pink

Bloom Period: Spring

GIANT TURK'S CAP

Malvaviscus aboreus

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 7–9 feet

Flowers: Red, White

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



PERENNIALS

MEXICAN HAT

Ratibida columnaris

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 18–36 inches

Flowers: Yellow, Red

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



LANCELEAF COREOPSIS *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Water: Low

Flowers: Yellow

Heat Tolerance: High

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer

Size: 1–3 feet



LANTANA *Lantana spp.*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 1–6 feet

Flowers: White, Purple, Orange,
Yellow, Pink, Red

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



PASSIONFLOWER

Passiflora spp.

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: Up to 10ft.

Flowers: Blue-Purple, Red

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



MEXICAN MINT MARIGOLD

Tagetes lucida

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 2-3 feet

Flowers: Yellow

Bloom Period: Summer, Fall

PERENNIALS

SHOWY STONECROP SEDUM

Sedum spectabile

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 1-2 feet

Flowers: White, Bronze-Red

Bloom Period: Summer



ROCKROSE *Pavonia lasiopetala*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 1-4 feet

Flowers: Pink

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer, Fall

PLAINS COREOPSIS *Coreopsis tinctoria*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 1-4 feet

Flowers: Yellow, Red

Bloom Period: Spring, Summer



smaller, often woody plants that provide color and variety to your landscape

SHRUBS



Pg 8 Agarito



Pg 9 Dwarf Wax Myrtle



Pg 8 American Elderberry



Pg 9 Prairie Flameleaf Sumac



Pg 8 Century Plant



Pg 9 Red Yucca



Pg 8 Chinese Fringe Flower



Pg 9 Sweetbay Magnolia



Pg 8 Chinese Photinia



Pg 9 Yucca



AGARITO

Berberis trifoliolata

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 3–5 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Winter



AMERICAN ELDERBERRY

Sambucus canadensis

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 3–10 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Summer

SHRUBS

CENTURY PLANT

Agave americana

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 5–10 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Summer



CHINESE PHOTINIA *Photinia serratifolia*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 15–20 feet

Grow Period: Spring

CHINESE FRINGE FLOWER *Loropetalum chinense*

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 6–8 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Winter





SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA

Magnolia virginiana

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 15–25 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



YUCCA

Yucca spp.

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 1–15 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Summer



SHRUBS

PRAIRIE FLAMELEAF SUMAC

Rhus lanceolata

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 10–15 feet

Grow Period: Summer



RED YUCCA *Hesperaloe parviflora*

Water: Low

Size: 1–2 feet

Heat Tolerance: High

Grow Period: Spring, Summer



DWARF WAX MYRTLE *Myrica pusilla*

Water: Low

Size: 3–6 feet

Heat Tolerance: High

Grow Period: Spring

protects soil from erosion
and evaporation and help
to prevent weed growth

GROUND COVER



Pg 11 Asian Jasmine



Pg 9 Liriope



Pg 11 Big Periwinkle



Pg 9 Monkey Grass



Pg 11 Coral Honeysuckle



Pg 9 Salvia/Sage



Pg 11 Japanese Garden Juniper



Pg 9 Verbena

BIG PERIWINKLE

Vinca major

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Partial Sun, Shade

Grow Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



GROUND COVER

CORAL HONEYSUCKLE (VINE)

Lonicera sempervirens

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Grow Period: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter



ASIAN JASMINE *Trachelospermum asiaticum*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun, Shade

Grow Period: Spring

JAPANESE GARDEN JUNIPER

Juniperus procumbens

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Grow Period: Spring





MONKEY GRASS

Ophiopogon japonicus

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Partial Sun, Shade

Grow Period: Summer

GROUND COVER



VERBENA

Verbena spp.

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Grow Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



SALVIA/SAGE *Salvia spp.*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Grow Period: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

LIRIOPE *Liriope muscari*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun, Shade

Grow Period: Summer



smaller trees that often flower during the year, providing color and other aesthetic benefits to your yard

ORNAMENTAL TREES



Pg 14 Ashe Juniper



Pg 15 Desert Willow



Pg 14 Chinese Photinia



Pg 15 Mexican Plum



Pg 14 Common Crape Myrtle



Pg 15 Rocky Mountain Juniper



Pg 14 Copperbark Crape Myrtle



Pg 15 Rough-Leaf Dogwood



ASHE JUNIPER

Juniperus ashei

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 15–20 feet

Canopy Width: 15–20 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Winter

ORNAMENTAL TREES



CHINESE PHOTINIA

Photinia serratifolia

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Height: 15–20 feet

Canopy Width: 10–15 feet

Grow Period: Spring



COMMON CRAPE MYRTLE *Lagerstroemia indica*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: Most are 10–15 feet

Canopy Width: Most are 8–12 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Summer

COPPERBARK CRAPE MYRTLE

Lagerstroemia fauriei

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 15–25 feet

Canopy Width: 15–25 feet

Grow Period: Summer



MEXICAN PLUM

Prunus mexicana

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 15–20 feet

Canopy Width: 20–25 feet

Grow Period: N/A



ORNAMENTAL TREES

DESERT WILLOW

Chilopsis linearis

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 15–20 feet

Canopy Width: 15–20 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Summer, Fall



ROUGH-LEAF DOGWOOD *Cornus drummondii*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Height: 15–20 feet

Canopy Width: 20–30 feet

Grow Period: Spring

ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER

Juniperus scopulorum

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 20–40 feet

Canopy Width: 5–15 feet

Grow Period: Spring



large trees provide shade to your yard

CANOPY TREES



Pg 17 Common Bald Cypress



Pg 18 Winged Elm



Pg 19 Post Oak



Pg 17 Pond Cypress



Pg 18 Bur Oak



Pg 19 Shumard Oak



Pg 17 American Elm



Pg 18 Chinkapin Oak



Pg 19 Texas Red Oak



Pg 17 Cedar Elm



Pg 18 Escarpment Live Oak



Pg 19 Willow Oak



Pg 17 Lacebark Elm



Pg 19 Chinese Pistachio



POND CYPRESS

Taxodium ascendens

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Height: 45–55 feet

Canopy Width: 10–20 feet

Grow Period: Spring

COMMON BALD CYPRESS

Taxodium distichum

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 50–70 feet

Canopy Width: 25–40 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Winter



CANOPY TREES

LACEBARK ELM

Ulmus parvifolia

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 30–50 feet

Canopy Width: 30–40 feet

Grow Period: Summer, Fall



AMERICAN ELM *Ulmus americana*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 60–80 feet

Canopy Width: 50–90 feet

Grow Period: Spring, Winter

CEDAR ELM *Ulmus crassifolia*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 40–70 feet

Canopy Width: 40–70 feet

Grow Period: Summer





CHINKAPIN OAK

Quercus muehlenbergii

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 50–60 feet

Canopy Width: 50–60 feet

Grow Period: Spring

CANOPY TREES

WINGED ELM

Ulmus alata

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun, Partial Sun

Height: 30–60 feet

Canopy Width: 25–45 feet

Grow Period: Spring



BUR OAK *Quercus macrocarpa*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 60–80 feet

Canopy Width: 40–60 feet

Grow Period: Spring

ESCARPMENT LIVE OAK *Quercus fusiformis*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 20–35 feet

Canopy Width: 25–40 feet

Grow Period: Spring





POST OAK

Quercus stellata

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 40–60 feet

Canopy Width: 40–60 feet

Grow Period: Spring



SHUMARD OAK

Quercus shumardii

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 50–60 feet

Canopy Width: 40–50 feet

Grow Period: Spring



CANOPY TREES

TEXAS RED OAK

Quercus texana

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 30–50 feet

Canopy Width: 30–50 feet

Grow Period: Spring



WILLOW OAK *Quercus phellos*

Water: Medium

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 60–80 feet

Canopy Width: 40–60 feet

Grow Period: Spring

CHINESE PISTACHIO *Pistacia chinensis*

Water: Low

Heat Tolerance: High

Exposure: Sun

Height: 30–40 feet

Canopy Width: 40–50 feet

Grow Period: Spring



Turf Lawns

Each species of grass has its own ideal growing conditions—soil type and depth, shade tolerance, amount of traffic it will tolerate, the level of maintenance required, and the amount of irrigation needed.

Warm season grasses turn straw-colored at the first frost and may go dormant in the winter in Texas. While some species of grass are well adapted to the North Texas climate (bermudagrasses and buffalograss, for

instance), others such as St. Augustine may require a significant amount of supplemental water and are not considered drought tolerant. Grasses listed below are considered the most adapted to the Richardson area.

The table below includes information about warm season grasses from AggieTurf, the Texas A&M University Turfgrass Program. Visit aggieturf.tamu.edu for more information.

	Bermudagrass	Buffalograss	Zoysiagrass
Shade Tolerance	Very low to low	Low	Moderate to high
Water Requirement	Moderate to low	Very low	Moderate
Drought Tolerance	Very good to excellent	Excellent	Very good
Traffic Tolerance	High	Low	Moderate to high
Cold Tolerance	Moderate	High	Moderate to high
Disease Potential	Low to moderate	Low	Low to moderate
Mowing Frequency	3 to 7 days	7 to 14 days (if mowed)	5 to 10 days
Mowing Height	1 to 2 inches	2.5 to 3 inches	.5 to 2 inches
Leaf Texture	Fine	Fine	Medium to fine



Bermudagrass



Buffalograss



Zoysiagrass