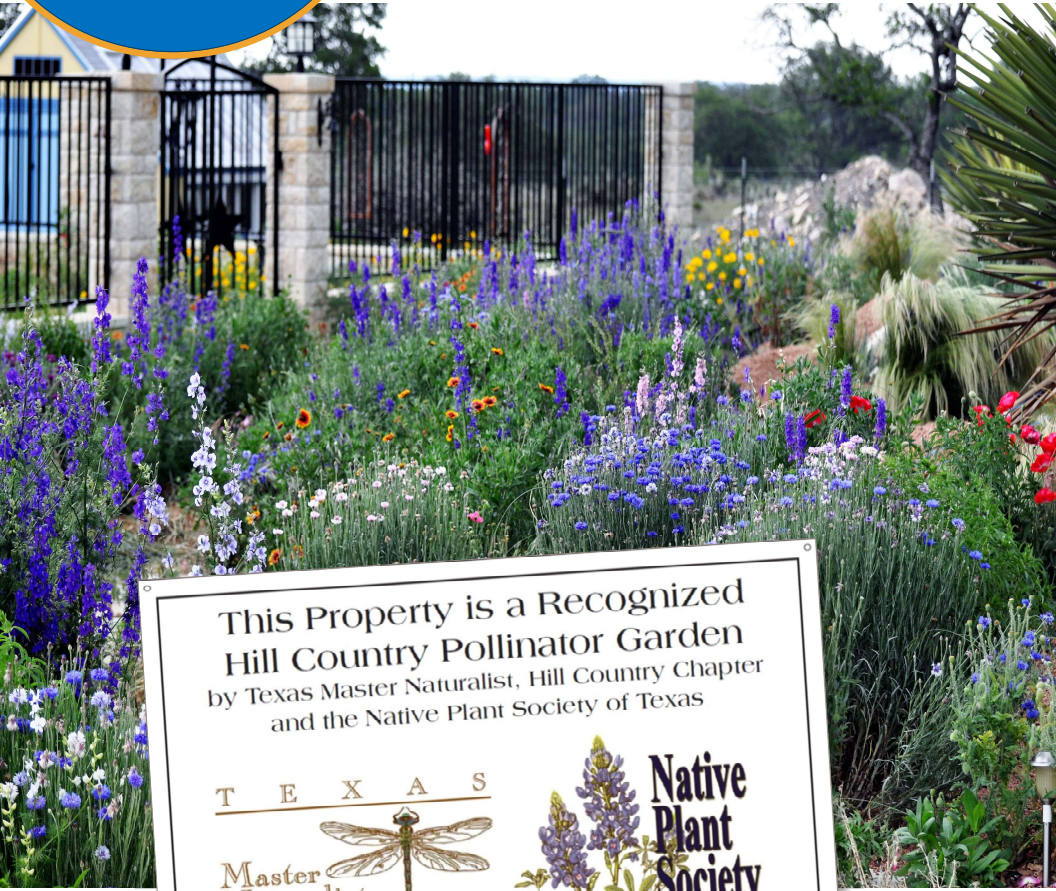




Native Plants

that go wild for pollinators



Pollinator Garden Assistance & Recognition Program

Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program

The Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program is a partnership between Texas Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society of Texas volunteers to educate homeowners, groups, and institutions about the importance of native plants and habitat in our unique Hill Country environment.

Planting a native pollinator garden provides host plants for many butterflies. Some butterflies only lay eggs on a single type of plant. The beloved monarch and queen butterflies will only lay eggs on milkweed plants. This relationship, developed over thousands of years, allowed butterflies to thrive, but with the increasing loss of native habitat some butterflies may become extinct. By planting native plants that bloom throughout the seasons you can help butterflies survive.

Butterflies are not the only pollinator that benefit from native plants. Even a small pollinator garden provides food sources and nectar for the four main groups of pollinators: bees and wasps, butterflies and moths, flies, and beetles. Birds are supported by pollinator gardens, too. When birds are feeding their babies, they rely heavily on insects to get enough food for their offspring to grow and develop.

Nearly 75% of flowering plants on earth rely on pollinators in order to set seed or fruit. From these plants comes one-third of the food for humankind and an even greater proportion of food for wildlife.

Pollinators are in decline due to industrial-scale agriculture, chemical dependent food production, introduction of exotic organisms, and habitat loss.

Pollinator gardens not only add beauty to your grounds but also provide food and habitat for wildlife, support agriculture, and be a source of joy and delight.

If you need help starting your garden please visit the sites below. The plants, bees, butterflies, beetles, and birds will thank you.

- txmn.org/hillcountry/PGARP
- npsot.org/wp/boerne
- npsot.org/wp/Fredericksburg
- npsot.org/wp/Kerrville
- riversidenaturecenter.org



Deer Resistant Explained

Most of these chosen plants are considered “Deer Resistant”.

When the Hill Country gets rain, deer have abundant choices for nourishment.

When rains decrease and summer heats up, those favorite choices diminish and their tastes expand.

A “deer resistant” plant might warrant a nibble. When the next twenty deer try a little nibble then the plant is gone.

The only sure fire deer deterrent is exclusion, either whole property fencing or caging individual plants.

Photography and Plant Collages by Marilyn McBroom Knight



Photographer Marilyn McBroom Knight has chased wildflowers most of her life and has a large collection of flowers caught by her camera. She credits her mother for planting the seeds of flower identification and appreciation. Marriage and family therapist Marilyn lives with her husband on a small ranch in the Kerr County hills. She has been a Texas Master Naturalist with the Hill Country Chapter since 2007. Her first years were in western New Mexico then to Robert Lee, Texas, and on to Angelo State University. After college she spent eleven years as a missionary in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

PGARP's 20 Favorite Pollinator Plants

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Asclepias asperula
antelope horns



This milkweed is common in the Texas Hill Country and a major host plant for Monarch, Queen, and Soldier Butterflies

The name of Antelope-horns milkweed is derived from the curved form of the seed pods. A perennial forb with white blooms which occur from March to October, it is attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

It prefers full sun, tolerates some shade, and needs minimal moisture. The height of the plant is only about six inches but it can spread to three feet.

It is deer resistant and can be found growing in a variety of soils.

Aphids often attack the plants, but are seldom a serious problem. A large tap root makes it hard to transplant these milkweeds. Propagation is by seed.

The seeds are attached to a silky down within the pod, helping the seeds to disperse when the pod opens.

During World War II the down was used in life jackets and was found to be five to six times more buoyant than cork.

Rachel Thompson

Symphotrichium oblongifolium

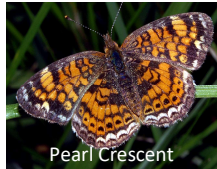
aromatic aster



Brilliant purple mounds during September through November provide much needed nectar for pollinators

This fall-blooming perennial with yellow-centered purple flowers has an aromatic, balsam-like scent. The blooms are a rich source of nectar which starts flowing during the height of the monarch butterfly migration. The plant serves as a larval host for the Pearl Crescent butterfly *Pygodes thares*.

Also known as fall aster, this beauty explodes with color and grows best in sun, but can tolerate part shade and acidic, rocky, or sandy soils.



The plants typically mound about two to three feet and grow one to three tall. It colonizes by sending out stolons. Thin regularly to control their spread.

Pruning by one-half in June will keep them thick. After dormancy, the plants should be cut to the basal rosette in late fall or early winter.

Seeds should be sowed in the fall. The plant also can be propagated by rootball division. Plant as a specimen or in a mass.

Fall aster requires minimal water, has no pest or disease problems, and is relatively deer resistant.

Rachel Thompson

Aloysia gratissima

beebrush



Beebrush is a honey plant and all types of bees are attracted to the vanilla-scented flowers

Blooms appear from March to November on this deciduous, perennial native shrub. Small white flowers cluster along the stem above small leaves. Pollinators are attracted to the nectar and the fruit is a food source for birds.

Used as a background plant for a location with poor soil in full sun or part shade, the fragrance of the flowers will fill the air.

The plant can grow to a wispy ten feet or can be coaxed to a fuller bushier shape by pruning. Plants are drought resistant once established.

Deer will browse this plant but it is considered toxic to horses, mules, and burros.

Frequently seen growing in the wild in low moist areas, the plant is easily transplanted. Propagation is also possible with softwood tip cuttings, and with seeds collected in late summer.

Beebrush may be available through nurseries specializing in native plants.

Joyce Studer



Melampodium leucanthum
blackfoot daisy



Fragrant honey-scented flowers provide nectar for bees, butterflies, and insects, and birds enjoy the seeds

With a low, mounding form, this sturdy heat and drought-tolerant perennial thrives in a rock garden setting. Blooms are present from March to November.

The six to twelve-inches tall plant with multiple clusters of small, white, daisy-like flowers seems to grow especially well tumbling over limestone, or with some limestone gravel added to the soil.

An excellent border plant for paths, well-drained soil is essential for this native.

The plant is regarded as highly deer resistant.

Enriched soil and abundant water will produce more flowers in the short-term, but may shorten the plant's life.

Two cautionary suggestions: do not over-water and do not cut back more than halfway in late winter as this may kill the plant.

Plants are widely available at nurseries.

Joyce Studer



Polanisia dodecandra
clammyweed



The plant is larval food for the Checkered White Butterfly and flowers attract pollinating insects and butterflies, while seeds feed birds

A member of the caper family, lovely blooms top eighteen-inch slender stems from June to October.



This dependable annual has a wide range of distribution. A heat-loving plant that grows on sandy slopes and flats in deserts and on plains, this plant will thrive in one of the drier locations of your garden.

Planted in clusters and back-lighted with the morning sun, the delicate beauty of the flowers belies the toughness of this plant. Clammyweed adapts well to highly disturbed areas where there is little other vegetation.

An herb, the plant is somewhat deer-resistant.

Seed is commercially available from native seed sources or collect seed in late summer.

Look for the palmately compound leaves in mid-spring sprouting in your garden when soil begins to warm.

Joyce Studer

Lonicera sempervirens

coral honeysuckle



An early bloomer, the vine welcomes hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies and fruit appeals to quail, finches, Hermit Thrush, and the American Robin

Plan a spot in your pollinator garden for this semi-evergreen twining vine that grows three to twenty-feet long. Intermittent blooms occur throughout summer.

With smooth leaves and coral-red or yellow tubular two-inch long blooms followed by red berries, this lovely plant is a trouble-free asset to any garden.

A native of East Texas, the plant will thrive in an enriched soil with regular moisture.

Unlike the Asian varieties the native honeysuckle is not an aggressive grower so a fence or large trellis will provide adequate support.

Trim after blooming to control size and encourage repeat blooms.

This plant is readily available in the nursery trade or semi-hardwood cuttings taken from summer to fall root easily.

Joyce Studer

Passiflora foetida

corona de cristo



A larval host plant for the Gulf Fritillary Butterfly, showy flowers captivate many other butterfly species

The passionflower is a perennial vine which blooms spring to fall in sun or part shade.

The flowers are purple, white, and/or cream, opening for just a few hours before closing. The fruit is large, bright yellow-orange or red, and is eaten by birds who spread the seeds.

Growing three to six-feet long it twines on fences and other plants. It requires medium water and deer resistance is moderate.

Propagation is by seeds and cuttings.

The young flowers and fruits have spiny-looking structures which resemble a crown of thorns, giving the "Corona de Cristo" passionflower its name. Also called the "stinking" or "fetid" passionflower due to a strong aroma emitted by damaged foliage.

Dry leaves have been used in folk medicine teas for sleep problems, itching, and cough.

Rachel Thompson

Tecoma stans

esperanza



Plant for a splash of color during the hot, dry days of summer
Expect the nectar to attract insects, bees, and hummingbirds

Growing to six feet or so, covered with clusters of yellow blossoms from May to November, and beautiful green leaves, esperanza's taller growth pattern makes the plant ideal for the rear of a perennial border.

Well-drained, rocky, limestone, sandy, or loam soils suit this easy to grow plant. Expect the plant to freeze to the ground in Central Texas winters, and allow to begin sprouting before the winter cut-back.

Southwestern varieties are adapted to monsoon-like rains with dry spells between. Water plants deeply and let dry out between waterings to emulate these conditions in your landscape to encourage more profuse flowering.

While the plants are readily available in nurseries, purchase the native in spring, and purchase a plant in full bloom to be assured of spring and summer blooms. Propagation from softwood cuttings is usually successful.

Joyce Studer

Packera obovatus

golden groundsel



Bright spots of color in shaded areas entice smaller butterflies
and bees when there are few nectar sources in early spring

Golden groundsel is a perennial which forms an evergreen ground cover that grows in shade or part shade.

Bright yellow flowerheads occur on slender pedicels, one to two feet tall, and are among the first flowers in spring and continue with a long and profuse bloom.

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract small bees such as little carpenter bees and various halictid bees.

Once established, the rosette forming plants colonize quickly by runner-like stolons which terminate in new rosettes. It prefers moist shade and is deer resistant.

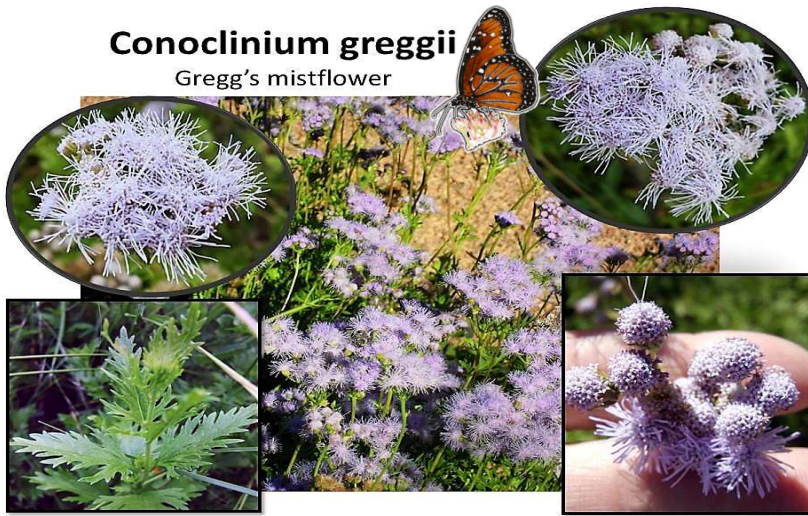
Bloom stalks should be cut back after seed drop. Delicate fuzzy seedheads easily disperse seeds on the wind and it is also easy to propagate by division.

Golden groundsel's true yellow color brings sunshine to the shady garden.

Rachel Thompson

Conoclinium greggii

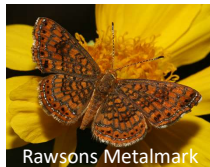
Gregg's mistflower



Members of the mistflower family attract butterflies, but the Gregg's Blue Mistflower is absolutely aflutter with the Queen Butterfly from mid-summer to fall

The palm-leaf mistflower can grow to two-feet tall with clusters of two to three-inch purplish-blue flower heads that adorn the spreading plant from March to November.

A nectar source and the larval host for the Rawsons Metalmark, the plant makes a good ground cover and will grow in gravelly calcareous soils or richer bedding soil. Migrating Monarch butterflies also enjoy a rest stop at the blue mistflower.



Rawsons Metalmark

Sun or part shade suits this delightful plant.

This plant is readily available in nurseries or can be propagated with root cuttings from existing plants or by seed.

Easy to transplant, pass along plants to a neighbor, if the plant spreads beyond your desired space.

A must for the pollinator garden, this perennial will do well in a rock garden or in a moister location. Water during periods of drought.

Joyce Studer

Gaillardia pulchella

indian firewheel



Butterflies and bees flock to the flowers for nectar, and the plant is a host for Indian Blanket Moths
Schinia volupia



Indian Blanket Moth

Indian blanket or Indian firewheel is an annual forb which produces numerous red and yellow-banded blooms from late spring to early summer.

Although it tolerates heat and drought, blooms are more prolific with light to medium moisture and good drainage. It will thrive in sandy soils.

Indian blanket reseeds easily so it should not be mowed until seeds are completely mature. Allow seedheads to dry on the plants then remove and collect the seeds.

Seeds should be planted in the fall, and with adequate moisture typically germinate in one to two weeks.

One of the easiest wildflowers to establish, it is a major component of wildflower prairies, meadows, and Texas roadsides.

Indian blanket is one of the best plants for "plant and forget about it" gardeners.

Rachel Thompson



Glandularia bipinnatifida
prairie verbena



Fragrant blooms from March to October are especially rich in nectar captivating native bees, hummingbirds, and many butterfly species

One of the most abundant and familiar wildflowers of Texas, prairie verbena, or Dakota vervain, is among the first to bloom in spring and one of the last to be affected by freezes in the fall.

Thriving in full sun to part shade it is not picky about soil type, growing in dry to medium moist clay, sandy soil, caliche, and average garden soil.

This erect to sprawling perennial grows six to sixteen inches tall with many branches. The lower branches, up to two-feet long, radiate from the base and take root wherever a joint touches soil. Erect branches with highly divided leaves terminate in masses of gently rounded clusters of small pink, lavender, or purple flowers.

Drought tolerant and highly deer resistant, verbena is short-lived, just one to three years but readily reseeds, though not invasively. Volunteer seedlings are easy to dig up and transplant. If you're the pruning type, snip it back in mid-summer for a tidier look and increased blooms in the fall.

It is long-blooming, drought tolerant, extremely hardy, and requires virtually no maintenance. This is a good plant in the far corner of the garden where a hose doesn't reach. It is small in stature, but gives so much with so little care.

Sharon Hixson

Pavonia lasiopetala
rose pavonia/rockrose



Flowers are visited by hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, honeybees, and several varieties of native bees

This deciduous perennial accent plant blooms from summer through fall with profusions of bright pink, hibiscus-like flowers on branches of light green, velvety, heart-shaped leaves. The flowers open in early morning and close in the afternoon heat.

It is drought tolerant and grows up to four-feet by three-feet in sun or part-shade on a variety of well-drained soils making it an excellent choice for pollinator gardens.

The loose branching form may be kept more compact by frequent pruning. Deadheading which reduces the number of seeds, promotes new growth and more flowers. In late February it can be cut back to ten to twelve inches.

Prolific seeds provide many seedlings that can be easily removed for planting elsewhere, sharing with friends, or simply composted.

Rock rose has been touted as deer resistant but my experience is that it will be sampled by hungry deer making it only moderately resistant.

Barbara Marquer

Monarda punctata
spotted beebalm



In sunny, well-drained locations, Beebalm invites native bees and provides a nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds

This aromatic perennial is a member of the mint family and blooms from April to August. Plants are frequently spotted in bloom on roadsides. The blooms are rosettes of yellowish, purple-spotted tubular flowers that rise on spikes ranging from six inches to three-feet tall. Added color makes the leaf-like bracts showy and can be white, pink, yellow, green, or purple.

The leaves have the scent of Greek oregano and contribute to the herbal qualities of this plant, making it somewhat deer resistant. Considered drought tolerant, plants may require some watering during dry spells.

Propagation by cuttings is possible if a certain color is desired. Plants will reseed or one can collect seed in September or October. Untreated seed can be sown in fall. Seed is also available commercially. Young plants transplant easily.

All monardas have been studied for medicinal use. Easy to grow and propagate, other varieties of monardas are available and beneficial in a pollinator garden.

Joyce Studer

Ipomopsis rubra
standing cypress



Hummingbirds love the flowers and will gather and cavort over its sweet nectar along with butterflies who find it a delight

If you're not familiar with standing cypress, sit down and gaze in wonder. Well, sit down for bloom time in May to July.

It's not a tree, it's a gorgeous, tall, unbranched, single stalk that when in bloom dazzles with red orange tubular flowers blooming up and down a thick spike. In fact there are varieties that bloom with colors from red to orange to yellow.

Plant from seedlings or seeds in part sun or shade and don't overwater. It will grow two to six feet all.

Once established, after blooming, the plant reseeds easily. It is not very picky about the quality of the soil, growing well in dry, sandy, or rocky locations.

Fowler stalks can be pruned after blooming and another stalk will possibly grow and bloom again. Standing cypress is a biennial and a Texas native. It's not necessarily deer resistant but different sources suggest that deer are not too interested in it.

Teresa Coleman



Stachys coccinea

Texas betony

This small perennial shrub rewards the grower with beautiful spikes of red which attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.

Texas betony blooms from March to October and is evergreen during normal central Texas winters. It grows in full sun to partial shade.

Requiring little water once established, it can grow from one to three feet tall and spread from two to four feet as it tends to sprawl out.

Also commonly called scarlet betony and scarlet hedgenettle, the blooms look very similar to those of the Texas native cedar sage. It is a member of the mint, *lamiaceae*, family and deer resistant once established. As with most new plants deer will tend to nibble on the flowers so it may need some protection for the first year if planted in a location exposed to deer.

In the event of severe freezes it can suffer die back, and in that case should be pruned to the ground to await new spring growth. Shearing during the summer encourages new blooms.

Propagate by division, cuttings, or seeds.

Even though one of the common names is scarlet hedgenettle it has no stinging hairs like true nettles. This plant is ideal for the landscape or can be grown in pots.

Elsa Roberts



Phyla nodiflora

Texas frog-fruit

A host plant for Common Buckeye and Phaon Crescent Spot butterflies, nectar-rich flowers are visited by numerous other butterflies and bees.

Unique flowers, which occur spring to fall, are small, white or pink, surrounding a dark purple center. Frogfruit is an excellent ground cover for sun or part shade.

Generally a riparian plant, it is widespread and can tolerate drought and flooding, and remains evergreen in warm years.

Deer resistance is moderate.

Branching stems can be up to three-feet long. Roots form at nodes along these stems. Propagate by root division.

To maintain a solid ground cover, watering when dry is required. It can form a dense mat that can take the place of traditional turf, but should not be mowed because it can take years for it to recover.

There is no consensus on the origin of the common name, "frogfruit", but it may have come from its preference for damp soils in riparian areas.



Phaon Crescent

Rachel Thompson

Lantana urticoides

Texas lantana



Blistering heat of summer covers the entire shrub with colorful red, orange, and yellow flowers that are an excellent nectar source for butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds

Texas lantana is an excellent way to add bright color all summer and into fall. It laughs at hazards that can wipe out lesser plants; it is disease and pest resistant, drought and salt tolerant, deer resistant, and has outstanding heat tolerance. It thrives in full summer sun, requiring little water once established, and can be used as a shrubby ground cover in dry, poor soil.

Deep purple-black berries are poisonous to most mammals, including cattle, sheep, and humans. However birds relish the berries and spread the seeds.

Leaves drop in winter leaving stems of gray, shaggy bark that can be cut back, or left to grow into thick trunk and branches reaching six-feet high and wide.

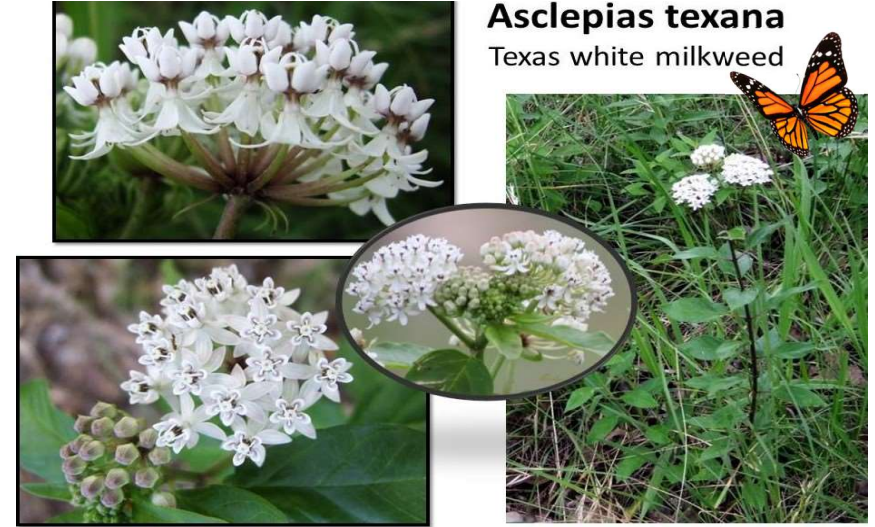
The original scientific name *Lantana horrida* refers to the strong smell of the leaves.

Lantanas have been the subject of much cross-breeding. The true native is the best for supporting our butterflies, bees, and birds. Never spray it with insecticidal soap. This common pesticide can kill the plant. Most insects know better than to mess with lantana anyway.

Sharon Hixson

Asclepias texana

Texas white milkweed



Along with other milkweeds, Milkweed Texana is a larval host for the Monarch Butterfly

Milkweed Texana, also known as Texas Milkweed, is a perennial forb blooming from May to September.

Snowball-like bright white flowers appear on loosely packed umbel clusters topping stems that grow one to three feet tall.

It grows in sun and part sun and requires little moisture. Propagation is by seed.

Found in two areas of the state, the southern and eastern Edwards Plateau and the mountains of the Big Bend region, it can be locally common.

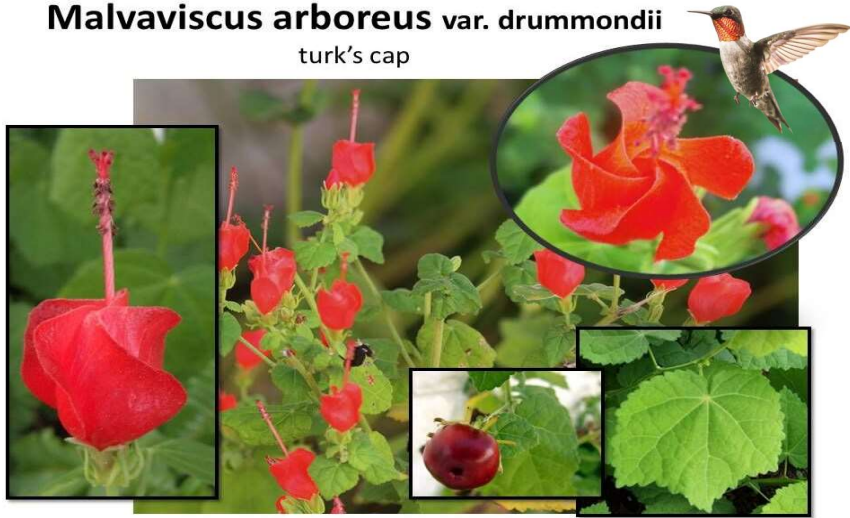
As with all members of the asclepias genus, its milky sap contains toxic cardiac glycosides that butterfly caterpillars retain after ingesting, making them unpalatable to predators.

This is one of the more attractive milkweeds, but is much less common than antelope horn milkweed.

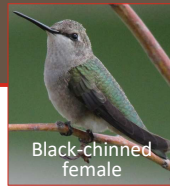
Rachel Thompson

Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii

turk's cap



Bright red hibiscus-like flowers are an important food source for female and juvenile Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds



Black-chinned female

This May to November blooming perennial shrub grows in shady to partially sunny locations and attracts butterflies and native bees.

Spreading three to five feet, it can grow as tall as six feet in sandy, loam, clay, or limestone soils. Turk's cap requires little water.

Individual flowers lasts two days, giving way to marble-sized red fruit around Thanksgiving. Fruit is edible either raw or cooked and enjoyed by birds and small mammals. Considered deer resistant, a few flowers and leaves may be nibbled.

Prune to keep a desirable height and shape. Stems can be left standing through winter then cut down to five or six inches after last frost to keep it about waist high. Propagate by root division, seed, or softwood cuttings.

This is a great plant for your pollinator garden, it is hardy, easy to get started, needs little water, grows in most any soil, will bloom through the hot summer, and annual pruning will keep it where you want it.

Richard Coleman

PLANT LISTS

NPSOT Blue Book npsot.org/Kerrville/NPSOT_Blue%20Brochure.pdf

Landscape Plants austintexas.gov/department/grow-green

Noble Research Institute nobleapps.noble.org/plantimagegallery

NATURE CENTERS



Fredericksburg Nature Center
fredericksburgnaturecenter.com

Cibolo Nature Center cibolo.org

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
wildflower.org

ORGANIZATIONS

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter txmn.org/hillcountry

Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) npsot.org

NPSOT Boerne Chapter npsot.org/wp/boerne

NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter npsot.org/wp/fredericksburg

NPSOT Kerrville Chapter npsot.org/wp/Kerrville

Texas Master Gardeners Association txmg.org

Hill Country Master Gardeners Association hillcountymastergardeners.org

Texas AgriLife Extension agriflifestension.tamu.edu

Texas Parks and Wildlife tpwd.state.tx.us

Texas A&M Forest Service tfsweb.tamu.edu

CoCoRaHS Network cocorahs.org/

Hill Country Alliance hillcountryalliance.org

International Dark Skies Association darksky.org

Monarch Watch monarchwatch.org

The Xerces Society xerces.org



Native Texas Plants need Native Texas Pollinators to thrive