

Native Pollinator Plants of South Texas



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



Helping People Help the Land



Insect and other animal pollinators play a pivotal part in the production of an estimated one out of every three bites of food that humans eat and in the reproduction of at least 80 percent of flowering plants. The commodities produced with the help of animal pollinators generate significant income for agricultural producers. For example, domestic honeybees pollinate an estimated \$14.6 billion worth of crops in the United States each year, produced on more than 2 million acres. Source: www.pollinator.org

The plants featured in the publication are pollinator-friendly plants common to south Texas. While some have been or are being evaluated by the E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center or the South Texas Natives Program, they are all important plants for pollinators. Some can be found commercially for planting, and others can be found in pastures, rangeland and other open areas providing important habitat for insect and other animal pollinators. These plant species should be considered for use in urban landscapes and range plantings to benefit pollinators. For information about where to obtain seed or plant material of these species, please email str@tamuk.edu.



Rio Grande Clammyweed	Mistflower	Engelmann's Daisy	Sunflower	Texas Lantana
<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i> ssp. <i>riograndensis</i>	<i>Conoclinium</i> spp. <i>Chromolaena</i> spp.	<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i>	<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	<i>Lantana urticoides</i>



Duration	Annual	Perennial	Perennial	Annual Perennial	Perennial
Bloom Time	March – November	April – December	February – November	March – December	March – December
Bloom Color	Pink	White to Blue	Yellow	Yellow Orange	Yellow to Red
Height (ft)	2 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 3	3 to 5	2 to 6
Soil Types	Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse
Drought Tolerance	High	Medium	High	High	High
Light Requirement					
Propagate	Seed	Seed Cuttings Division	Seed Division	Seed	Cuttings Seed
Remarks	This plant attracts numerous pollinator species and other insects. The seeds are eaten by a variety of game birds and wildlife. Zapata Germplasm Rio Grande Clammyweed is commercially available.	Mistflowers are excellent generalist nectar sources. Several species are found in south Texas and vary in bloom period and light requirements.	Engelmann's daisy begins to produce blooms in early spring. Seeds are eaten by several species of birds and the foliage is readily eaten by livestock.	Numerous species of sunflowers occur in south Texas. They are good generalist sources for pollen and nectar. Sunflower species that produce hollow or pithy stems are important nest sites for cavity nesting bees.	Texas lantana is an easy to grow native and will attract a variety of pollinators.





Beebalm

Monarda spp.



Partridge Pea

Chamaecrista fasciata



Red Sage

Salvia coccinea



Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus



Dalea

Dalea spp.



Duration	Annual Perennial	Annual	Annual	Perennial	Annual Perennial
Bloom Time	March – November	June – December	March – December	May – November	March – December
Bloom Color	White to Greenish Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Purple White Yellow
Height (ft)	1 to 3	1 to 3	1 to 3	1 to 4	1 to 3
Soil Types	Coarse	Medium to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Medium	Fine to Coarse
Drought Tolerance	High	Medium	High	Medium	High
Light Requirement					
Propagate	Seed	Seed	Seed	Seed Cuttings	Seed
Remarks	Five species of <i>Monarda</i> occur in south Texas. The flowers are usually small and white, but each species produces large showy bracts ranging from white to purple.	Partridge pea is also known as sleeping plant and is considered toxic to livestock. The seed is utilized heavily by quail and other birds. This plant also has extrafloral nectaries on the stems.	Red sage is easy to grow from seed. It will attract hummingbirds and numerous other pollinators. This plant has good shade tolerance.	This plant will specifically attract hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies. It thrives under shady conditions.	Nine species of <i>Dalea</i> occur in south Texas. Seeds are eaten by quail and other birds. Cuero Germplasm purple prairieclover is commercially available.



Prairie Acacia	Whitebrush	Mexican Hat	Gayfeather	Awnless Bush Sunflower
<i>Acacia angustissima</i>	<i>Aloysia gratissima</i>	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	<i>Liatris</i> spp.	<i>Simsia calva</i>



Duration	Perennial	Perennial	Annual Perennial	Perennial	Perennial
Bloom Time	May – November	April – December	April – September	July – November	February – December
Bloom Color	Creamy White	White	Yellow Red	Purple	Yellow
Height (ft)	3 to 4	4 to 10	2 to 3	1 to 3	1 to 2.5
Soil Types	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse
Drought Tolerance	High	High	High	Medium	High
Light Requirement					
Propagate	Seed Division	Seed	Seed	Seed Division	Seed
Remarks	This legume spreads by rhizomes. Its flowers will attract a variety of insects. Rio Grande Germplasm and Plains Germplasm prairie acacia are both commercially available.	Whitebrush and sweetstem are important nectar producing plants for honey. Both species have fragrant flowers over a long bloom period.	Mexican hats are easy to grow and will reseed themselves readily. They are good generalist sources for pollen and nectar. Long-horned bees are frequently found on this species.	Four species of gayfeather occur in south Texas. Gayfeathers are highly attractive to a wide variety of pollinators, especially butterflies.	Awnless bush sunflower is a good generalist source for pollen and nectar. It and the similar species orange zexmenia are host plants for the bordered patch butterfly.





Indian Blanket	Milkweed	Prickly Pear Cactus	Goldentrod	Frostweed
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	<i>Asclepias</i> spp. and <i>Cynanchum</i> spp.	<i>Opuntia engelmannii</i>	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	<i>Verbesina microptera</i>



Duration	Annual Perennial	Perennial	Perennial	Perennial	Perennial
Bloom Time	February – December	March – December	April – June	September – November	September – November
Bloom Color	Yellow Red	White Orange	Yellow Red	Yellow	White
Height (ft)	1 to 2	1 to 6	3 to 10	2 to 6	2 to 4
Soil Types	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse	Fine to Coarse
Drought Tolerance	High	High	High	High	Medium
Light Requirement					
Propagate	Seed	Seed Root Cuttings	Seed Pads	Seed	Seed
Remarks	Indian blankets are easy to grow and will reseed themselves readily. They are good generalist sources for pollen and nectar.	There are eight species of milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) and four species of climbing milkweed (<i>Cynanchum</i> spp.) that occur in south Texas. These are host plants for monarch and queen butterflies. Some can be difficult to establish.	Fruit and pads are eaten by wildlife as well as humans. Prickly pear is an important species in south Texas as it will bloom during drought. It is also used as nesting sites by the cactus wren.	There are four species of goldenrod in south Texas. They are important species for fall nectar and pollen production. Contrary to popular belief, goldenrods are not wind pollinated and do not contribute to hay fever.	Frostweed is an important species for fall nectar and pollen production. It is frequently visited by monarch and queen butterflies during fall migration.





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E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/>



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The Xerces Society | <https://www.xerces.org/>

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