

Researched and compiled by Joan Russell

BIRD HABITAT PLANTS FOR BASTROP COUNTY

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>HEIGHT & HABIT</u> | <u>FLOWER</u> | <u>FRUIT</u> | <u>SOIL</u> | <u>SUN/SHADE AND FLAMMABILITY RATING</u> | <u>ORNAMENTAL AND WILDLIFE USE</u> |
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| SMALL BUSHES | | | | | | |
| Flame Acanthus <i>Anisacanthus insignia</i> | 2'-4' deciduous | Small, orange-red, tubular flowers June - Sept. | Seed capsules | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun Low flammability | Very drought tolerant bush with bright little flowers all summer. Hummingbirds love the flowers. Butterflies do too. |
| Agarita <i>Berberis trifoliata</i> | 3'-8' Evergreen | Showy yellow flowers Feb. - Mar. | Red berries May - July | Dry sand, loam And clay | Full sun High flammability | Makes good hedge - blue green leaves, drought tolerant. Blooms very early. Birds love the ripe fruit. Spiny leaves make protected nest sites. |
| Coral-berry <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculata</i> | 1½' - 4' Deciduous | Small white flowers June - Aug. | Magenta berries Oct. - April | Sand, loam, clay | Dappled to part shade Low flammability | Very pretty spreading tall ground cover. Berries last all winter. Fruit eaten by many local birds. |
| Turk's cap <i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i> | 2'-4' Deciduous | Very showy red flowers May-June | Red seeds Oct.-Dec. | Sand, loam and clay | Part shade to shade Low flammability | Makes a good garden plant or tall ground cover in natural areas. Very xeric. Bright red flowers are plentiful all summer. Hummingbirds nectar the flowers and birds eat the fruit. |
| Coral-bean <i>Erythrina herbacea</i> | 3-6 deciduous | Very showy red flowers May - June | Red seeds Oct. Dec. | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun Low flammability | A most Xeric plant. Beautiful bright red flowers and colorful red bean in brown pods. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds use flowers for nectar. |

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| Autumn Sage <i>Salvia greggii</i> | 2'-4' semi- evergreen | Showy pink or red flowers April – Dec. | Nutlets June to Dec. | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun is best Low flammability | Widely used garden plant. Hummingbirds love this plant |
| Chili pequin <i>Capsicum annuum</i> | 1' – 2½' Deciduous | Small white flowers Mar – Nov. | Small red chili peppers. H O T | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Pleasant understory shrub. Peppers are used in cooking. But watch out!! Very hot!! Birds of several species loved peppers and disperse seeds. |
| Fragrant sumac <i>Rhus aromatica</i> | 1' – 3' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Red berries May - June | Full sun to part shade | Sand, loam, clay Low flammability | Looks like poison ivy. Forms thickets. Understory bush in natural areas. Red berries are earliest summer fruit and popular with several bird species. |
| White mistflower <i>Eupatorium wrightii</i> | 2'-6' semi- evergreen | Very fragrant cream-white flowers. Aug- Nov | Seeds | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Hummingbirds swarm on the extremely fragrant, fuzzy flowers in fall just when they need the nutrients for migration. Butterflies flock to this shrub. |
| Pigeonberry <i>Rivinia humilis</i> | 1'-1½' Evergreen to dormant in winter | Pink and white 2" spikes almost all the time | Red berries, Spring to fall. | Sand, loam, clay | Dappled shade to part shade Low flammability | This is a charming ground cover. Plant has flowers and berries at the same time almost continuously. Birds love berries. |
| Pokeberry <i>Phytolacca americana</i> | 3'-5' Perennial | 6 inch flower spikes, April – May. | Purplish- black berries throughout summer till frost | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Not a very good landscape plant but a wonderful bird and wildlife food plant. Birds disperse seed and will likely plant some in your landscape. |

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| Cigar Flower <i>Cuphea ignea</i> | 3' Perennial | Small, long and narrow, tubular flowers, spring to fall. | Seeds. | Well-drained soil. | Full sun. Low flammability | Nice non-native garden plant. Dies back in winter. Blooms all summer. Related to Mexican heather. Hummingbirds use flowers extensively. |
| Oklahoma Plum <i>Prunus gracilis</i> | 1½' – 3' Deciduous | White flowers April - May | Plums, bluish purple | Sand, well-drained | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Shrubs look very pretty in spring covered with white blossoms. Plant in natural area with space to spread. Birds eat the wild plums. |
| LARGE BUSHES | | | | | | |
| Barbados Cherry <i>Malpighia glabra</i> | 5'-9' Evergreen | White to pink flowers March to Dec. | Drupes, red and fleshy | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Highly ornamental shrub, erect with many slender stems at base. Several species of birds eat the fruit. |
| Smooth sumac <i>Rhus glabra</i> | 3' – 10' Deciduous | Small clusters of white flowers June to August | Velvety red berries in clusters. Sept. – Oct. | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Gorgeous red fall color. Fruit is eaten by 35 species of birds. Butterflies nectar at flowers. |
| American Beauty-berry <i>Callicarpa americana</i> | 3'-9' Deciduous | Small clusters of pinky white flowers at nodes. May - July | Magenta berries in clusters at nodes on stems. Aug. – Nov. | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Beautiful soft-looking but rugged shrub for wood edges where it can be seen and enjoyed. <u>Many</u> species of birds as well as mammals eat the berries. |

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| Lantana <i>Lantana horrida</i> | 3'-6' Deciduous | Orange and yellow 1-2" flower heads Spring to frost | Black berries Sept – Nov. | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun Medium flammability | Colorful, long-lasting flowers. Good plant for large garden. Hummingbird attractor. Many birds eat the berries. |
| Wax Myrtle <i>Myrica cerifera</i> | 6'-12' Evergreen | Inconspicuous | Bluish-gray round, waxy berries. Winter | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade High flammability | Excellent garden shrub. Medium green, small shiny leaves. Can be trained to multi-trunked small tree. Dense leaves provide cover and nest sites. Forty species of birds eat the berries. |
| Pyracantha <i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> | 6'-12' Evergreen | White flowers in 2" clusters in spring. | ¼" apple-like berries orange in fall, red in winter. | Sand, loam, clay that is slightly acid | Full sun High flammability | Introduced species from Asia. Good screen and security plant for landscape. Many bird species eat the berries. Also provides good, protected nesting sites because of the many and sharp thorns. |
| Russian Olive or Elaeagnus <i>Elaeagnus pugnens</i> | 5'-15' Evergreen | Inconspicuous. Fall. | Flecked silver fruit in late winter and early spring. | Sand, loam, clay, well-drained. | Full sun to part shade Medium flammability | Non-native good screen plant for full sun where it will be very dense. Very drought tolerant. Good nest site shrub and birds eat fruit. |
| Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> | 3' tall and spreads out. semi-Evergreen | Pale pink flowers in spring. | Small, orangy-red fruit. Late summer through winter. | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun Medium flammability | Low growing shrub that can be used as groundcover on rocky slopes. Provides cover and food for birds. A very good colorful evergreen plant. Non-native. |
| <u>SMALL TREES</u> | | | | | | |
| Texas Persimmon <i>Diospyros texana</i> | 10'-30' Deciduous | Small greenish-white fragrant flowers in March | Small, black and fleshy fruit. June-July | Well-drained & gravelly. | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Very attractive dark gray trunks and branches. Nice accent or specimen plant for garden. Ripe fruit eaten by game and song birds. |

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| Farkleberry <i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> | 8'-25' semi-ever-green | Small, bell-shaped white flowers May-June | Small blue berries Fall and Winter | Sand and sandy loam | Part shade High flammability | Attractive shrubby small tree with dark green leaves. Good fall color. Small berries are eaten by several species of resident and wintering birds. |
| Deciduous holly <i>Ilex decidua</i> | 10'-30' Deciduous | Inconspicuous Spring | Red drupes along stems and branches | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to shade High flammability | Very ornamental small tree. Light gray branches are lined with red berries all winter. Berries eaten by several bird species. |
| Yaupon holly <i>Ilex vomitoria</i> | 15'-25' Evergreen | Inconspicuous | Red drupes on female tree only | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to shade High flammability | Makes good accent or specimen plant in garden. Berries are very pretty against green leaves. Fruit eaten in spring by several species of birds. Very good nest tree because of dense leaves. |
| Carolina Buckthorn <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> | 12'-20' Deciduous | Inconspicuous small flowers. May-June | Drupes, reddish brown Fall | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to shade Low flammability | Pretty dark green, shiny leaves and red berries that remain on tree for a long time. Fruit eaten by a number of bird species. |
| Hercules Club Ash <i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i> | 10'-30' Deciduous | Showy green-yellow flower clusters. March-April | Capsule Fall | Sand and loam, acid to neutral | Full sun to part shade High flammability | Thorny trunks and branches. Mostly a fence row tree. Not a good home landscape plant. Birds eat seeds. Larvae of <u>many</u> butterflies, including Giant Swallowtail, eat leaves. |
| Desert Willow <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> | 6'-15' Deciduous | Showy, orchid-like flowers. May-Sept. | Capsule with winged seeds. Aug.-Nov. | Sand, loam, and clay, well-drained. | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Stunning flowering tree. One of the best for this area. Hummingbirds love the nectar. Tanagers feed on the flowers. Various species feed on winged seed. |

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| Rough-leaved Dogwood <i>Cornus drummondii</i> | 10'-20' Deciduous | Showy, white flower head. May-Aug. | Round, white drupes | Sand, Loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Very pretty white flowering tree. Good natural garden plant and woodland understory tree. Forty species of birds feed on white fruit. |
| American Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> | 5'-20' Deciduous | Showy white 4"-8" flower clusters June-Sept. | Berries, blue-black. Sept.-Nov. | Wettish sand and loams and gravelly clays | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Invasive in gardens. Use only in natural areas along streams or creeks. Pretty flowers. Fruit eaten by many species of birds. |
| Rusty blackhaw viburnum <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i> | 10'-30' Deciduous | Showy, cream-white flowers. March | Bluish-black berries. Sept.-Oct. | Sand, loam, and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Pretty, single-trunked small tree. Very glossy leaves. Loses leaves in August because of dry weather. Robins and other songbirds love fruit. |
| Red buckeye <i>Aesculus pavia</i> | 10'-30' Deciduous Early spring | Showy, red, tubular flower clusters March-May | Capsules Late summer and Fall | Sand, loam and clay . Not too dry. | Part shade to shade Low flammability | Good understory tree in natural area. Loses leaves in summer. Scarlet flowers are visited by Hummingbirds. Seeds are poisonous and not eaten by wildlife. |
| Eastern redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | 10'-40' Deciduous | Showy magenta pea-like flowers. March | Legumes, reddish-brown. Late summer and fall | Sand, loam, and heavy black clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Highly ornamental small tree. Early nectar source for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Seeds are eaten by a number of species. |
| Retama <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> | 10'-25' Deciduous | Showy yellow flowers all summer. | Legumes in late summer and fall. | Sand, loam, and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Thorny green-barked shrubby tree. Flowers are fragrant and bloom almost year 'round. Seeds are eaten by game and songbirds. Provides good cover and nest sites. |

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| Cherry laurel <i>Prunus caroliniana</i> | 10'-30' Evergreen | Showy, cream-white spike-like flowers. March-April | Blue-black berries Aug. Sept. | Sand, loam and clay loam | Full sun to part shade High flammability | Attractive shiny, dark green leaves. Does better as a specimen plant in a garden. Birds love the black berries, especially cedar waxwings. |
| Mexican plum <i>Prunus mexicana</i> | 15'-35' Deciduous | Showy, fragrant, white flowers | Plums Sept.-Oct. | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Beautiful spring flowering tree. Fragrant blossoms. Somewhat messy. Plums are relished by birds and small mammals, such as rat terriers. |
| Wooly-bucket bumelia <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i> | 15'-35' Deciduous | White flowers June-July | Blue-black berries Sept.-Oct. | Sandy loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Smallish tree in Bastrop County. Thorny. Good cover and nest tree. Several birds feed on fruit. |
| Flame-leaf sumac <i>Rhus copollina</i> | 10'-20' Deciduous | Small greenish white. Spring | Small red drupes in clusters. Fall | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Natural area or wood edge plant. Thickets prolifically. Beautiful bright red fall color. Fruit is eaten by at least 21 species of birds. |
| Western Soapberry <i>Sapindus drummondii</i> | 15'-50' Deciduous | Clusters of small white flowers. April-May | Round, amber, berry-like fruit with one seed. Sept.-Oct. | Sand, loam and clay Fencerows and streams | Full sun, part shade Low flammability | Yellow fall color. Tolerates poor sites. Fruit prized by many kinds of birds. Good nest and cover tree. |
| <u>GRASSES</u> | | | | | Grasses not rated for flammability | |
| Big muhly <i>Mullenbergia lindheimeri</i> | 2'-5' warm season perennial | Spikelets, silver to tan August | Seeds Sept.-Nov. | Loam, clays, prefers limestone | Full sun | Attractive bunch grass. Striking accent in garden Birds eat ripe seeds. Good nesting material. |

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| Bushy Bluestem <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i> | 3'-4' warm season perennial | Spikelets, tan to gold | seeds | Moist sand | Full sun to part shade | Natural area grass. Pretty in fall. Food and cover for many species of birds. |
| Inland Sea oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> | 2'-4' warm season perennial | Spikelets, green to tan | Seeds June-Oct. | Sand, loam and clay | Part shade | Spikelets droop attractively. Natural area grass in woodlands near streams. Very good forage for birds and mammals also. |
| Little bluestem <i>Schozachyrium scoparium</i> | 2'-5' warm season perennial | Spikelets, bluish gray | Seeds Sept.-Dec. | Sand, loam and clay | Sun to part shade | The <u>most</u> attractive native grass in the area. Natural area accent. Good cover grass and nest material for birds. |
| <u>VINES</u> | | | | | Vines not rated for flammability | |
| Southern dewberry <i>Rubus trivialis</i> | Vine-like climber | White Feb.-April | Dewberries May-June | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade | Not useful as ornamental but innumerable birds and mammals relish the berries. Provides good cover as well. |
| Cross-vine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> | Climber up to 50' Evergreen | Showy red and yellow tubular flowers. March-April | Capsule Sept.-Oct. | Moist sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade | The best native flowering vine. Good garden plant. Covered with flowers during peak bloom time. Ruby throated hummingbird needs this early blooming nectar plant to survive migration. |
| Trumpet creeper <i>Campsis radicans</i> | Climber Semi-ever- green | Orange tubular flowers in clusters June-Sept. | Capsule with winged seeds | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade | Natural area vine. Premier Hummingbird plant. |
| Mustang grape <i>Vitis mustangensis</i> | Climber up to 40' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Grapes Late summer | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade | Not a good landscape plant, but grapes are eaten by many birds. |

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| Muscadine grape <i>Vitis rotundifolia</i> | Climber up to 40' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Blue black berries Late summer | Sand, loam, clay | Full sun to part shade | Grapes eaten by several species of songbirds. |
| Carolina Jessamine <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> | Vine to 40' Evergreen | Bright yellow, funnel-shaped flowers Late winter and spring | | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade | This beautiful vine needs shaping and trimming in a garden setting to stay in bounds. It has fragrant, yellow flowers early and is a favorite with hummingbirds. |
| Pepper vine <i>Ampelopsis arborea</i> | Climber Semi- evergreen | Inconspicuous | Berries, purple Late summer | Sand, loam, clay, moist | Part shade to shade | Natural area vine. Berries are great source of food for game and non-game birds. |
| LARGE TREES | | | | | | |
| Bald Cypress <i>Taxodium distichum</i> | 45'-100' deciduous conifer | Inconspicuous | Small cones Winter | Sand, loam and clay | Full to part sun Low flammability | Large conifer with needle-like leaves. Lovely, soft, conical shape. Often planted in groups. Seeds eaten by many birds. Good cover and nest sites. |
| Eastern red cedar <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> | 30'-60' Evergreen | Inconspicuous | Small, bluish and berry-like Fall and Winter | Well-drained sand or clay | Full to part sun High flammability | Good screen tree. <u>Many</u> birds eat the seeds, find shelter and build nests in the dense growth of old cedar trees. |
| Loblolly pine <i>Pinus taeda</i> | 60'-100' Evergreen | Inconspicuous | Cones, 6"-8" long Fall and Winter | Sandy to gravelly | Full to part sun High flammability | Beautiful landscape tree. Excellent cover and nesting tree for many birds, especially cavity- nesting woodpeckers. Many birds eat the seeds in the pine cones. |

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| Blackjack oak <i>Quercus marilandica</i> | 40'-60' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Acorns every two years in winter | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade High flammability | This is not a good landscape tree in some parts of Bastrop County. It is not long-lived and may spread oak wilt. In natural areas it is a very good wildlife tree, providing nest cavities and insects for birds. The acorns are eaten by many birds. |
| Bluejack oak <i>Quercus incana</i> | 30'-40' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Acorns every two years in winter | Dry, deep, sandy uplands | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Good natural area and wildscape tree. Interesting branching. Provides cover, nest sites and acorns for food. |
| Post oak <i>Quercus stellata</i> | 40'-50' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Acorns Winter | Sand, neutral clay | Full sun Low flammability | Beautiful large, slow-growing oak with fall color, dense leaves and interesting winter look. Wildlife is served by acorns, dense cover and nest cavities. |
| Water oak <i>Quercus nigra</i> | 60'-80' Semi-evergreen | Inconspicuous | Acorns every 2 years in Winter | Sand, loam and clay, prefers moist | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Excellent dense shade tree. Acorns eaten by over 17 species of birds. |
| American elm <i>Ulmus americana</i> | 30'-60' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Samara (winged fruit) Aug.-Oct. | Sand, loam and clay, | Full sun to shade Low flammability | Handsome landscape and shade tree. Seeds and buds eaten by many songbird species. Good cover and nest tree with insects for insect eating birds. |
| Cedar elm <i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> | 30'-60' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Samara Aug.- Oct. | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Good landscape and street tree. Lovely gold and yellow fall color. Seeds and buds eaten by many species of birds. |

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| Net-leaf hackberry <i>Celtis reticulata</i> | 15'-30' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Drupe, orange-red Aug.-Sept. | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | This is not a good landscape tree. It is considered a trash tree. Good in natural area. One of the <u>best</u> wildlife trees. The fruit is eaten by many, many bird species. It provides good nest sites and cover. Excellent butterfly larvae food. |
| Sugarberry (sugar hackberry) <i>Celtis laevigata</i> | 40'-60' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Berry, red to purple-black | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Not a good landscape tree but the very <u>best</u> kind of wildlife tree. Many species of birds feed on berries and use the tree for shelter and nest sites. |
| Bois d' arc <i>Maclura pomifera</i> | 10'-25' Evergreen | Inconspicuous | Yellow-green drupelets, softball-sized ball. Sept.-Oct. | Well-drained loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Not a good landscape tree-messy. Good cover and nest tree. Bobwhites eat seeds of the fruit. |
| Texas Mulberry <i>Morus microphyla</i> | 10'-25' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Mulberries Red to black May - June | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Messy landscape tree because of the fruit. The <u>best</u> source of spring fruit for neotropical migrant birds. Twenty-one species devour berries as soon as they are ripe. |
| Pecan <i>Carya illinoisensis</i> | 50'-60' Evergreen | Inconspicuous | Nut Sept.-Oct. | Sand, loam and clay | Full sun to part shade Low flammability | Beautiful, useful landscape tree. Nuts are valuable for all kinds of wildlife and many kinds of birds. |
| Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> | 60'-80' Deciduous | Inconspicuous | Round seed head Sept-Oct. | Sand, loam and clay. Likes acid soil. | Full sun, part shade Low flammability | Globose fruit is eaten by a variety of bird species. Goldfinches and other finches are particularly fond of the fruit. Insects are found in the tree for insectivores. |

Plant recommendations for dry sunny locations:

Annuals

Globe amaranth – easily grown from seed or seedlings. Red, Hot pink, pink, lavender or white.

Zinnia – All bright colors except blue. Best purchased as seedlings from nursery.

Blue daze – very pretty blue flowers. Wonderful for full sun. 12” tall.

Mexican zinnia – orange or white or gold. Bunchy plant with many flowers.

Perennials

Purple cone flower – Dark pink, up to 18” tall, blooms almost all summer, re-seeds, not invasive.

Copper canyon daisy – Blooms late summer, gold blossoms, strong fragrance offensive to some.

Zexmenia – small gold flowers, blooms almost all summer, small shrubby bush, reseeds sparsely.

Mexican Bush Sage – 4ft. purple and white, blooms in fall spectacularly.

Blue sage Veronica - my favorite. Very reliable blue flower spikes. Needs full sun.