



# Flower Bed Guide

Flower Beds of DaySpring and their care

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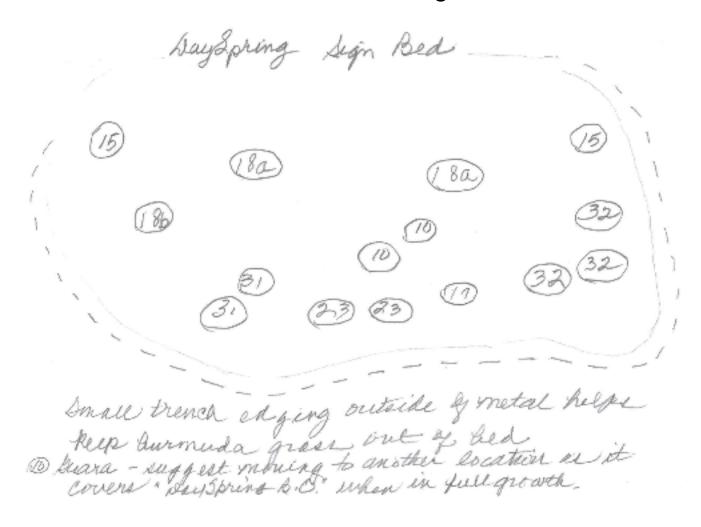
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## DaySpring Baptist Church Grounds



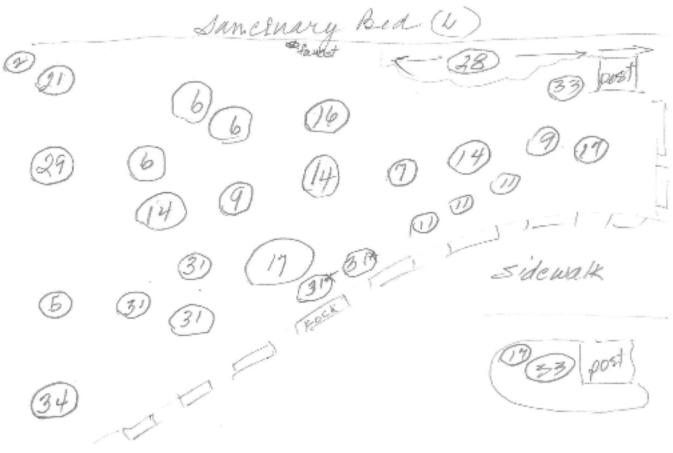
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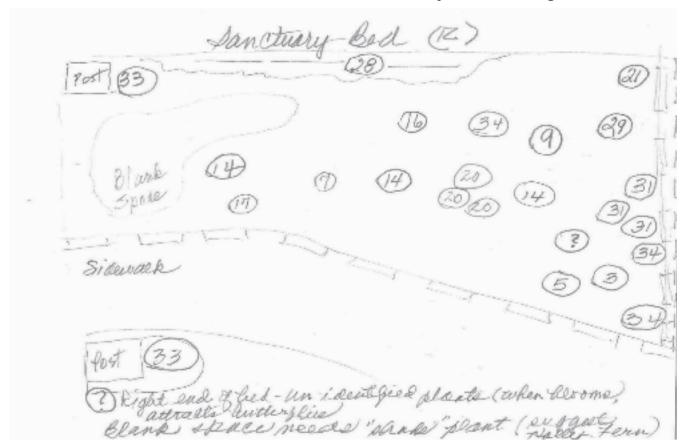
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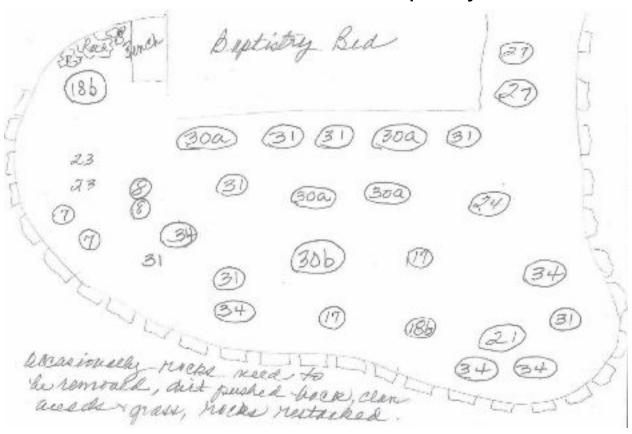
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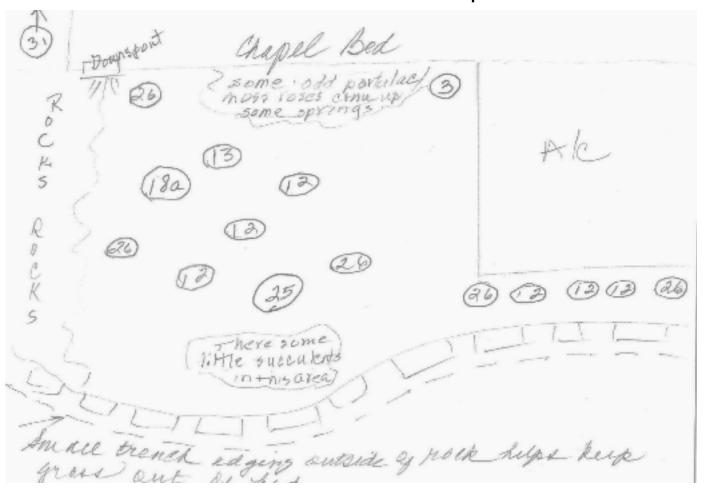
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Prostrate Rosemary along the northeast parking lot

Rose of Sharon bushes along the chapel in the playgroun

Chinese Pistache trees near rocks on playground

## Flower Bed Detail: Sidewalks

Cherry Sage Salvia next to building

Skullcaps near parking lot

## Flower Bed Detail: Rose Garden

Boxwood

Knockout Rose

Dwarf Yaupon Holly (Ilex Vomiter "Nana")

## **DaySpring Plants**

#### **BEDS**

- 1. Alyssum "Candytuft" (Lobularia Maritima)
- 2. Blackfoot Daisy
- 3. Butterfly Iris (*Dietes Bicolor*)
- 4. Carolina Jasamine (Gelsemium Sempervirons)
- 5. Catmint (Nepeta x Faassenii)
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- 32. Skullcap (Scutelloria suffrutesens)
- 33. Yellow Jassmine (Vine)
- 34. Yellow Verigated Yucca

Boxwood

Dwarf Yaupon Holly "Nana" (Ilex vomiter)

Knock out Roses

Rose of Sharon

Chinese Pistache

## **Plant Detail**

1. Alyssum "Candytuft" Lobularia maritima (Brassicaceae)

Sweet Alyssum wildflower or flower seeds produce a fragrant low growing mass of flowers that reach a height of 2 - 6 inches. This low height and compact growth makes sweet alyssum perfect for borders in flower beds, along pathways, or as a (no or very low traffic) groundcover. Sweet Alyssum seed produces an annual or tender perennial flower that will bloom continuously throughout the growing season if the "deadheads" or dead blooms are kept trimmed. Click on the picture above for a larger view of these beautiful "carpet of snow flowers".



A native of southern Europe, Sweet Alyssum has adapted to all areas of the USA and is commonly referred to as a carpet of snow flowers. It is best to sow this flower seed in early spring after the last "killing" frost to protect tender seedlings. While this variety has white blooms, there are other varieties available in pink or purple. See out list of individual species in the right column.

Sweet Alyssum is drought tolerant, heat tolerant, grows rapidly producing an endless display of fragrant blooms. It thrives in full sun to partial shade in almost any type of soil and is often found growing wild, on roadsides, sandy and rocky areas, and waste areas. Thus Sweet Alyssum can be considered a landscaping garden flower or a wildflower! This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies, birds and other pollinators. This is a deer resistant flowering plant.

Description: This hardy flower is considered a tender perennial as it grows as a perennial and will bloom year round in frost free climates. With an average of 4-6 inches in height, each plant will spread as much as 1' in diameter. This variety of sweet alyssum produces fragrant masses of white flowers that grow close to the ground. Sweet Alyssum plants spread vertically and bloom quickly.

- Synonyms: Alyssum maritimum; Carpet Of Snow
- Culture/uses: Full to partial sun, dry to moist soils; excellent for fragrant, butterfly and old-fashioned gardens; highly adaptable, blooms all year round in warm climates. Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping.
- Germination information: State standard=60 : Seeds/lb.=I,ll5,000
- Planting rate: I lb./ I8,600 sq. ft., 2.3 lbs./acre (60)

## 2. Blackfoot Daisy



#### **Blackfoot Daisy**

(Melampodium leucanthum) Height: 10–12 inches Spread: 12–24 inches Bloom Color: White with yellow

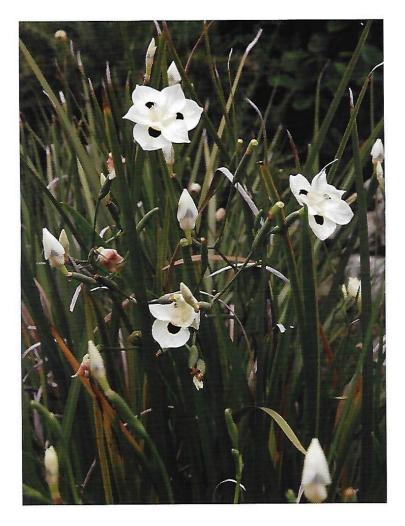
center

Bloom Time: March to October

Comments: Does best in rocky, gravelly, limestone-based soils. Tolerates caliche, but good drainage is essential. Great in rock gardens. A superb native for the garden if you don't pamper it.



## 3. Butterfly Iris (Dietes Bicolor)



## **Butterfly Iris**

(Dietes bicolor) Height: 3 feet Spread: 2 feet

Bloom Color: Creamy white petals accented with yellow and

black

Bloom Time: Late spring to

summer



Comment: Evergreen swordlike foliage and striking flower form and color demand attention. Adaptable to different soils. The related variety Moraea grandiflora has a more conventional irislike blossom in white, purple, and yellow.

## 4. Carolina Jasamine (Gelsemium Sempervirons)

#### Gelsemium sempervirens

#### CAROLINA JESSAMINE

r Carolina jasmine ■ ZONE 7

Sun, part sun or shade. Compact, bushy vine, to 10 to 25 feet tall. Native to the southeastern United States, East Texas included. Evergreen where it's adapted. Foliage is lanceolate, deep glossy green. Flowers in early spring, bright yellow, single, and tubular. Flowers delightfully fragrant. Foliage can show iron chlorosis when plants are grown in alkaline soils. Climbs by twining. Good

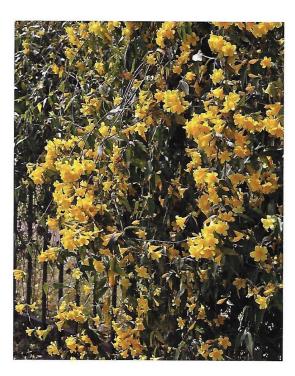
Carolina jessamine



on fences, over patios, trailing over rock walls. Space plants 6 to 10 feet apart, and provide means of climbing (wires, etc.) to get the growth started upward. Very adaptable. Double-flowering form is also available, but the overall show is lessened compared to the single type.

Flower cluster of Carolina jessamin





#### Carolina Jessamine

(Gelsemium sempervirens)

Evergreen

Height: 15–20 feet Spread: 12 feet

Flower: Yellow, January to March

Soil: Adaptable

Maintenance: Prune to keep

vigorous.

Comments: The native range of South Carolina's state flower extends to East Texas, and it does just fine in Central Texas if its soil is not allowed to dry out. Its leaves are small and delicate. Its appearance benefits from being trained. All parts are poisonous.



### CAROLINA JESSAMINE

Gelaction approximate



HARDINESS/TYPE

Hardy in USDA Zones 7 to 9; everyeen

#### COLORGO

Yellow

#### BLOOM PERIOD

Late winter to early spring

MATURE BEIGHT Up to 20 ft; twining

#### WATER NEEDS

Water sufficiently to prevent soil dryness, espedaily in late summer:

#### PLANTING/CARE

Plant in spring or fall, in full sun or shock-(Shooming is reduced in shady areas). Will grow in sandy, learny, and day so is will tolerate damp conditions, and has most crate drought resistance. Mulch the root, sone year-round. Serolize regularly. Prune and train as necessary, growth is especially rapid in spring, so pay close attention to directing and training then.

#### PESTS/DISEASES None serious

#### IANDSCAPING TIPS a IDEAS

Grow on the lives or other large structures, tying to the support with clastic stretch ties. Does well in large talks or planters on decks and calconies. May also be used to cover the ground and spill over slopes.



## 5. Catmint (Nepeta x Faassenii)



Catmint (*Nepeta*) is a member of the mint family. It is an extremely easy growing plant with few pests or problems. The billowing foliage is topped with spikes of flowers in early summer with repeat blooms throughout the season.

Nepeta has slightly aromatic grey-green foliage that has a delicate, lacy appearance. The flowers can be white, pink or lavender-blue, and bloom on long spikes. The lavender-blue varieties are often used as a substitute for lavender plants, where lavender is not particularly hardy.

Most catmint varieties have a somewhat sprawling growth habit, making them nice plants for edging and along paths. However, there are a few tall growing varieties, like 'Six Hills Giant', with a more upright habit. As with many scented, gray foliage plants, catmint is deer-resistant.

• Botanical Name: Nepeta spp. and hybrids

Common Name: Catmint, Catnip

Plant Type: Perennial

Mature Size: 10 to 24 inches tall and 1 to 2 feet wide

Sun Exposure: Full sun, part shade

Soil Type: Clay, well-draining

Soil pH: 6.0-6.6

Bloom Time: Late spring, summer

• Flower Color: Blue

Hardiness Zones: 4 to 8, USDA

Native Area: Europe, Asia, and Africa

## 6. Cenizo "Texas Purple Sage" (Leucophyllm Frutescens)



#### Cenizo, Texas Purple Sage

(Leucophyllum frutescens) Semi-evergreen Height: 4–6 feet

Spread: 4–5 feet

Bloom Time: Summer to fall Bloom Color: Pink-purple

Growth Rate: Slow

Soil: Well drained is essential,

alkaline

Maintenance: Low. Trim to main-

tain size.

Comments: The soft appearance of silver-gray evergreen foliage and bell-shaped violet flowers that bloom in high humidity (hence the name "barometer plant") make our state native shrub easy to identify. Shady conditions will result in leggy growth and few blooms. It is often seen as a hedge, but it looks best as a specimen plant. 'Thundercloud' and the green leaf variety 'Green Cloud' are popular cultivars. 'Compacta' is an excellent choice if you desire a smaller, denser plant. Excellent Xeriscape choice.





## TEXAS SAGE

Leucophyllum frutescens



HARDINESS

USDA Zones 7b to 9

COLOR(S)

White, pink, and purple

BLOOM PERIOD

Summer

MATURE SIZE (H x W)

4 to 8 ft. x 4 to 6 ft.

#### WATER NEEDS

Water as necessary to avoid complete soil dryness.

#### PLANTING/CARE

Plant in the spring or fall. It does extremely well in full sun, all day long (it can take only a little shade). It will grow in any well-drained soil. Mulch. Fertilizing is optional. Minimal or no pruning is recommended.

#### PESTS/DISEASES

None

#### LANDSCAPING TIPS & IDEAS

This shrub is super in a dry garden. Try it as an accent planting in either the green or gray foliage. It bursts into outstanding bloom after a drenching rain—people stop to look and point at the beauty.

### 7. Danthius "Pinks" (Dianthus Chinensis)



## PINKS

Dianthus spp.



#### HARDINESS

Hardy throughout Texas

#### COLOR(S)

Rose, salmon, pink, lavender, magenta, white, and bicolors

#### BLOOM PERIOD

Fall, winter, and spring

## MATURE SIZE (H x W)

4 to 15 in. x spreading

#### WATER NEEDS

Maintain moist soil, but do not overwater. Mulch.

#### PLANTING/CARE

Plant in early fall or spring after frost is past. Site with plenty of morning sun and afternoon shade. They bloom best under cooler conditions. Remove spent blooms.

#### PESTS/DISEASES

Leaf spot can occur in cloudy, humid conditions. This is corrected when the sun comes out, humidity decreases, and with good air movement. Get control advice from your local garden center.

#### LANDSCAPING TIPS & IDEAS

Excellent in areas where you wish to create a mass effect for early-season bloom. The taller ones make nice background plantings. Due to the various colors, entire drifts with shades of color may be created. Pinks are super in country-cottage garden themes.

#### Dianthus sp.

#### PINKS I ZONE 6

Sun, but with shade from hot afternoon sun in summer. Grow to 4 to 15 inches tall, depending on variety. Flowers in spring are maroon, pink, red, white, salmon, or orchid. Fragrance of clove. Closely related to florist's carnations. Require highly organic, well-drained soil. Plant from

Double red garden pinks



started nursery transplants in spring, or divide clumps and plant offshoots in fall. Short-lived perennials, since many types tend to melt in heat of summer, particularly where humidity is high and air circulation limited. A few types, including an old-fashioned magenta strain, persist in Texas gardens.

See also Dianthus in Chapter 8.

Single light orchid garden pinks



### 8. Coreopsis



If you're looking for low maintenance, drought-tolerant, long-blooming and cheerful plants for a flower border or a filler, coreopses are a perfect choice. Native American prairie and woodland plants, their ruggedness and profuse blooms have made them popular with plant breeders. Their common name, "tickseed," is supposedly for the seeds' resemblance to ticks. Even so, birds (particularly Goldfinches) love to snack on the seeds during fall and winter. Bees and butterflies are drawn to them, too. Their daisy-like flowers range in colors from bright yellow and orange to pink and red. Coreopsis form upright clumps and have a moderate growth rate. Plant them any time

from early spring to fall; most varieties will start blooming in early summer and repeat bloom periodically through fall.

Botanical Name	Coreopsis
Common Name	Tickseed, Pot of Gold
Plant Type	Perennial flower
Mature Size	10 to 18 inches tall and 12 to 24 inches wide
Sun Exposure	Full sun, part shade
Soil Type	Well-draining, sandy soil
Soil pH	5.5 to 6.5
Bloom Time	Summer
Flower Color	Yellow, orange, pink, red
Hardiness Zones	4-9
Native Area	Prairie and woodlands of North America

#### How to Grow Coreopsis

You can find a handful of coreopsis varieties for sale as plants. For the best selection, order from catalogs or start your plants from seed. Hardiness will vary with species and cultivar, and not all coreopsis varieties are perennial plants. Many of the newer varieties are still be tested for hardiness and their ratings may change.

Deadheading will keep the plants blooming throughout the summer. Some of the smaller flowered varieties are difficult to deadhead and you may prefer to shear the plants, once the first flush of flowers fade. They will fill in quickly.

## 9. Desert Willow Tree (Chilopsis Linearis)



#### **Desert Willow**

(Chilopsis linearis)

Deciduous

Height: 6–30 feet Spread: 6–30 feet

Growth Rate: Fast

Soil: Adaptable, well drained



Comments: Another good tree for small spaces, the desert willow needs full sun and good drainage. Its showy pinkish flowers are delightful. Its slightly wild look makes it a good choice for informal, naturalized gardens.

## 10. Gaura "Indian Feather" (Gaura Lindheimeri)



GAURA

Gaura lindheimeri

ARDINESS

Hardy throughout Texas

COLOR(S)
White and pink

BLOOM PERIOD Summer

MATURE SIZE (H x W) 3 to 5 ft. x 3 to 4 ft.

WATER NEEDS
Water during extremely dry periods.

#### PLANTING/CARE

It prefers full sun, and good drainage is critical. A site with good air movement minimizes pest problems and allows for more movement of the flowering spikes. Mulch to control weeds and retain soil moisture.

#### PESTS/DISEASES

Spider mites can occur if air circulation is poor, and leaf spots are more likely in heavily shaded spots.

#### LANDSCAPING TIPS & IDEAS

A tall, mounding plant ideal for the background of a perennial border. Delightful in association with evergreen shrubs. May be grown in a large container. 'Franz Valley' is a compact choice. 'Carrie's Gold' has variegated foliage and pink-and-white flowers. 'Crimson Butterflies' has burgundy foliage and a compact habit. 'Siskiyou Pink' is also lovely.

A tap rooted perennial, growing gaura plants do not like to be moved from place to place, so plant them where you want them to remain for several years. Seeds may be started indoors in peat or other biodegradable pots that can be planted directly into the sunny garden. Care of gauras involves planting them into a full sun area with rich soil and deep drainage. Growth needs of the gaura plant include organic soil. This encourages the development of the taproot. gaura growing info indicates the plants are drought tolerant once established, consequently, little care of gaura is needed. Water and fertilization needs are minimal once growing gaura plants are established, usually when they reach 3 feet in height and blooms appear. Guara growing info says the plant begins to blossom in mid-spring and continues to provide the unusual flowers until frost causes die back. Some gardeners find gaura to perform best when cut down to the roots in autumn.



https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/gaura/growing-guara-plants.htm

#### 11. Geranium



Depending on where or how you grow geranium plants, their needs will be somewhat different. Indoors, geraniums need lots of light for blooming but will tolerate moderate light conditions. They also need indoor temps of around 65-70 degrees F. (18-21 C.) during the day and 55 degrees F. (13 C.) at night. These plants need to be grown in well-draining potting soil as well. When growing geraniums outdoors, they require moist, well-draining soil similar to that of indoor potting soil with equal amounts of soil, peat, and perlite.

Locate your geraniums in an area with at least six to eight hours of sunlight. Since these plants must be protected from cold, wait until the threat of frost has passed before planting. Space plants about 8 to 12 inches (20-30 cm.) apart and around the same depth as their original planting pots. Mulching the plants is also recommended to help retain moisture.

Whether indoors or out, geranium care is pretty basic. In addition to watering, which should be done deeply and once the soil begins to feel dry indoors or at least weekly outdoors (though potted plants may need daily watering in hot weather), fertilizing is usually necessary. Use a water-soluble houseplant fertilizer or a 5-10-5 fertilizer with additional organic matter every four to six weeks throughout their active growing season. Indoor or potted plants may require repotting once they become overgrown, usually noted by wilting between waterings. Regular deadheading of spent blooms will also help encourage additional blooming. When watering outdoor plants, it's best to avoid overhead irrigation, as this can lead to pests or disease issues. Geranium plants root easily from cuttings and can be propagated in fall for overwintering of outdoor plants. They can also be dug up and brought inside.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Growing Geraniums: Tips For The Care Of Geraniums https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/geranium/geranium-care.htm

## 12. Gulf Muhly Grass (Muhlengergia capillaries)



### **Gulf Muhly**

(Muhlenbergia capillaris)

Evergreen

Height: 1–3 feet Spread: 1–3 feet

Growth Rate: Moderate

Flower: Pink blooms late summer

through fall



Soil: Sandy

Maintenance: Cut back in late

winter, if desired.

Comments: Gulf muhly has slender green leaves. This is a great grass for soft-looking,

ethereal pink blooms.

### 13. Hamblin Grass, miniature



'Hameln' is a smaller variety of fountain grass with three distinctive seasons of stunning displays. Green, fine-textured grass blades up to 3 feet tall are tipped with soft, wheat-shaped seed heads. Foliage turns rust gold in autumn and pale blonde in winter, and is a favorite stopover for birds. A great match for late-season perennials and colorful shrubs in the mixed border. (Pennisetum alopecuroides)

Advantages

Easy To Grow Attract Birds Deer Resistant Low Maintenance
Good For Cut Flowers Good For Dried Flowers
Groundcover Great For Mass Plantings
Winter Interest

Light Requirements
Full Sun

Mature Plant Size
24-36" tall. , 18-30" wide.

Foliage plant all season. Fluffy, buff-colored plumes form in late summer and continue through fall.

## 14. Indian Hawthorne (Raphiolepis Indica)



#### **Indian Hawthorn**

(Raphiolepis indica)

Evergreen

Height: 4–6 feet

Spread: 4–6 feet

Bloom Time: Spring

Bloom Color: Pink-white

Growth Rate: Moderate

Maintenance: Avoid overhead

sprinkling.

Soil: Humus rich, well drained,

wide range of soils



Comments: Dark, evergreen, leathery leaves and charming pink-white flowers followed by clusters of blue-black berries. It serves well as a border, in a cluster, or as a specimen and is most attractive when planted in full sun. Good choices for Central Texas include 'Majestic Beauty' and 'Pink Lady.' For smaller areas, try the compacts 'Ballerina' and 'Enchantress.' When grown under less than ideal conditions, it is subject to black spot.

## 15. Japanese Maiden Grass (Miscanthus sinensis)



Description	This elegant grass has narrow blades with white mid-ribs forming a vase-like clump up to 6 feet tall. Numerous feathery, copper-colored plumes rise above the foliage by mid autumn and provide beautiful winter interest. Not for short season climates as it will get its flower spikes nipped by September frosts. Cut back in early spring before new growth appears. Hardy to -20°F Maximum Elevation: 8,500 ft.
USDA Hardiness Zone	4, 5, 6, 7
Water Needs	Moderate
Light Needs	Partial Sun, Full Sun
Mature Height	5-6 ft.
Mature Width	5-6 ft.
Name	Maiden Japanese Silver Grass (Maiden Grass-Miscanthus)

## 16. Japanese Yew (Podocrapres Macraphyllus)



#### Japanese Yew

(Podocarpus macrophyllus)

Evergreen Height: 10–20 feet Spread: 5–8 feet Bloom Time: NA Bloom Color: NA

Growth Rate: Moderate
Maintenance: Trim as needed
and fertilize in late winter.

Soil: Well drained, slightly acidic



but adaptable, organically enriched

Comments: Tall and narrow with long, needlelike leaves, this bright evergreen adds variety of texture and form to many landscape plans. Prized for its columnar shape, it is commonly used in narrow spaces and to soften the corners of buildings; however, creative pruning and training widen the possibilities of this excellent shrub.

### 17. Lamb's Ear

## Stachys byzintina

## LAMB'S EAR I ZONE 4

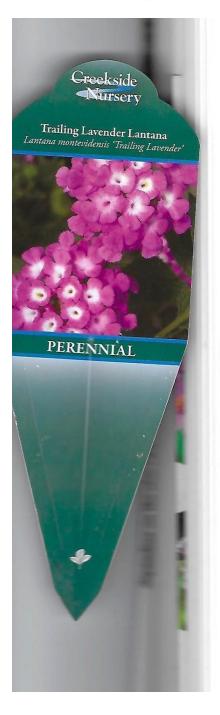
Sun or light shade. Grows to 6 to 8 inches tall. Non-showy flowers in late spring, early summer are

Lamb's ear in middle, Silver Mound artemesia in foreground



### 18. Lantana

## a. Purple Trailing



### b. Texas Gold



### 19. Liriope (Verigated Yellow)

Common Name: big blue lilyturf 🔍

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Asparagaceae

Native Range: China, Taiwan, Japan

Zone: 5 to 10

Height: 1.00 to 1.50 feet Spread: 0.75 to 1.00 feet

Bloom Time: August to September Bloom Description: Lavender Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium Maintenance: Low

Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer, Drought, Erosion, Air

Pollution

Invasive: Where is this species invasive in the US?

Garden locations

Not recommended for use in home gardens in the Midwest.



#### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, fertile soils in part shade in the St. Louis area. Tolerates a wide range of light conditions and soils. Will grow in close to full shade, but will produce more elongated foliage and spread more slowly. Also has good tolerance for heat, humidity and drought. Foliage is evergreen in warm southern climates, but declines considerably in areas with cold winters such as St. Louis. Cut foliage to the ground (mow large plots on high mower setting) in late winter to early spring in preparation for new growth. Plants may not be reliably winter hardy in the northern parts of USDA Zone 5 where they should be sited in protected locations.

#### **Noteworthy Characteristics**

*Liriope muscari*, commonly called lilyturf or blue lily turf, is a tufted, tuberous-rooted, grass-like perennial which typically grows 12-18" tall and features clumps of strap-like, arching, glossy, dark green leaves (to 1" wide). Clumps slowly expand by short stolons, but do not spread aggressively like *Liriope spicata*. Erect, showy flower spikes with tiered whorls of dense, violet-purple flowers rise above the leaves in late summer. Flowers give way to blackish berries which often persist into winter.

#### 20 Mexican Heather



Profuse purple flowers on a versatile, tidy, compact shrub with finely textured, glossy, bright green foliage. Reblooms continuously, well into fall. Good for edging and seasonal color in beds and borders. A popular container plant for pots and baskets. Semi-evergreen.

Light Needs

#### Partial to full sun

Water Needs

Water regularly - weekly, or more often in extreme heat or containers.

USDA Zone 8 - 11

Watering Needs:Water regularly - weekly, or more often in extreme heat or containers.

Botanical Pronunciation:KYOO-fee-uh hiss-sop-ih-FOH-lee-uh

Plant type:Shrub

Deciduous/evergreen:Semi-evergreen

Sunset climate zones:16 - 24

Growth habit:Compact

Growth rate:Fast

Average landscape size: Quickly reaches 2 ft. tall and wide.

Special features: Compact Form, Easy Care, Fast Growing

Foliage color: Green

Blooms:Summer

Flower color:Purple

Flower attributesLong Bloom Season, Showy Flowers

Garden styleContemporary, Cottage, Mediterranean, Tropical

Design IdeasA delightful subshrub to fill out beds and borders with foliage and flowers. Plant as edging or a small hedge for tropical gardens. Softens the corners of paving and sidewalks and helps to define pathways. Makes a fine nest for the base of a fountain, birdbath or sundial. Excellent for lush potted compositions.

Companion PlantsFountain Grass (Pennisetum); Hibiscus (Hibiscus); Mandevilla (Mandevilla); Salvia (Salvia); Phormium (Phormium)

### 21. Nandina (Bush)



Common Name: nandina
Type: Broadleaf evergreen
Family: Berberidaceae
Native Range: India to Japan

Zone: 6 to 9

Height: 3.00 to 8.00 feet Spread: 2.00 to 4.00 feet

Bloom Time: June

Bloom Description: White with yellow

anthers

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Medium

Suggested Use: Hedge, Naturalize

Flower: Showy Leaf: Good Fall Fruit: Showy

Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Drought, Heavy Shade

Invasive: Where is this species invasive in the US?

Garden locations

This plant has been found to be weedy and potentially invasive and should not be planted in Midwestern gardens.

#### **Culture**

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Some tolerance for full shade, but foliage often grows best in sun with some afternoon shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils, but prefers rich, moist, humusy ones. Best with consistent watering. Established plants have some drought tolerance. Best fruiting occurs when grown in groups. Single specimens may fruit poorly. This shrub is evergreen in the warm winter climates of USDA Zones 8-10. In the St. Louis area, it is considered to be semi-evergreen to deciduous because plants will typically lose their foliage (become deciduous) as soon as winter temperatures dip below 10 degrees F., with the stems sometimes dying to the ground. Plants are not reliably winter hardy to the St. Louis area, and if grown therein, should be sited in protected locations with organic winter mulches applied.



#### 22. Pecan Tree



**PLANTING**: Pecan trees need well-drained soil. Set out bare-root trees in winter. Dig a planting hole deep enough to accommodate the long taproot; position the bud union above soil level. Firm soil around roots, then water thoroughly.

WATERING: Don't let soil dry out.

**FERTILIZING**: Properly fertilize pecan trees in mid- to late February. Without proper fertilization, pecan trees are more likely to have alternate bearing years as well as an early nut drop. (Early nut drop is also caused by drought conditions.) A soil test will help to determine the soil pH and nutrient levels. Nutrients are most readily available at a

soil pH of 6 to 6.5. In the absence of a soil test, broadcast 4 pounds of a complete fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, for each inch of trunk diameter (measured at 41/2 ft. above soil level). Do not place fertilizer in holes, but broadcast fertilizer evenly beneath the canopy of the tree. Pecan trees also require zinc for proper growth and development, as well as good nut production. Zinc deficiency causes a disorder known as rosette. Symptoms of rosette include bronzing and mottling of leaves; early defoliation; dead twigs at the top of the tree; abnormally small nuts; small, yellowish leaves; and short, thin leaves on older branches with rosettes (clusters) of small yellowish green leaves at the tips. In general, 3 to 5 pounds of zinc sulfate can be applied to large trees each year to maintain proper zinc levels. Alternatively, pecan tree fertilizer containing zinc can be applied. Many pecan fertilizers are available as 10-10-10 with 2% zinc. Apply at the same rate mentioned above for 10-10-10.

**HARVESTING**: Harvest when nuts fall in autumn; you can shake or beat the branches to hasten drop. Remove husks right away. Leave the nuts in a dry, moderately warm place for several days until pecans are crisp. Store them in sealed containers or freezer bags.

## 23. Pincushion "Butterfly Blue" (Scabitsa Lalumbaria)



#### **Pincushion Flower**

(Scabiosa columbaria 'Butterfly

Blue')

Height: 12–18 inches Spread: 10–12 inches

Bloom Color: Lavender-blue Bloom Time: April to frost; may take a respite during mid-

summer

Comments: Named Perennial Plant of 2000. Nice size, interesting foliage, and a lovel blossom. Easy to grow in or ganically enriched and light soil. Deadhead to encourage new blooms.



# 24. Plumbago (plumbago ouric)



#### Cape Plumbago

(Plumbago auricu)
Evergreen in mild winters
Height: 3–5 feet
Spread: 2–3 feet
Bloom Color: Sky blue
Bloom Time: Spring to fall
Growth Rate: Fast

Soil: Well drained and fertile Maintenance: Cut back if shrub

becomes leggy.

Comments: Blooms best in full sun. Moderately drought toler ant once established. Has clusters of light blue (a cherished color for many gardeners), cheerful flowers. Frost tender but returns the following spring.

#### Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

#### BLUE PLUMBAGO zone 6

Sun or part sun. Grows to 8 inches tall, spreading 1 foot and more across the soil. Low sprawling plant used in the rockery, also in the perennial border. Flowers are a rich and intense bright blue. Diamond-shaped leaves are dark green, turning maroon in cold weather. It dies to the ground with a hard freeze, coming back vigorously the follow-

Hardy blue plumbago



ing spring. Not invasive, so a delightful small groundcover. Start from divisions of offshoots, or from nursery transplants.



# 25. Pride of Houston Yaupon Holly



Native to Texas, Yaupon Holly is a species of holly that tolerates the hot and dry Texas summers with relative ease, however prospers when provided more ideal conditions. Yaupons include evergreen shrubs or small trees with light gray bark, and small oval shaped alternate leaves with coarsely serrated margins. It forms multiple stems in clumps, giving the plant some density despite the smaller leaves.

The small white flowers in the spring are somewhat striking; however the red drupe berries that follow in the fall to winter are the main attraction. They stay on during the winter, attracting birds and other wildlife as a food source. 'Pride of Houston' Yaupon is an all-female cultivar, guaranteeing berries every season.

Ilex vomitoria received its name from its usage with Native Americans; it was an ingredient in

teas used in rituals that would induce vomiting. Yaupon tolerates nearly any quality type of soil, and can be grown along the coastline as well.

- Large Hedge
- Small Ornamental Tree
- Wind Barrier

**Flower Color: Height Spread**Yellow-White 15-20 Feet 10-15 Feet

# 26. Evening Primrose (Oenothera spp.)



### Square-bud Primrose, Sundrops

(Calylophus berlandieri)

Height: 1 foot Spread: 1–2½ feet

Bloom Color: Lemon yellow Bloom Time: Spring through fall Comments: Compact and bushy, this primrose family member looks great in a rock garden or at the front edge of a flower bed. Extremely heat tolerant, it thrives in fast-draining soil. Profuse, 1-inch blossoms and fine, needlelike foliage. Trim lightly to shape. The Western Primrose (C. hartwegii) is even more drought tolerant.



# 27. Privet (bush)



A privet hedge running along a property border is a classic look. The very name seems to say "privacy," as if a line of these bushes could form the ideal screen for those seeking a more private setting. Many kinds are not especially beautiful plants when considered in isolation, but they do excel in the role of hedges. Privet grows more quickly and can be shaped more easily than can boxwood shrubs, for instance. The dense foliage is not evergreen in many climates, making it best suited for summertime-only

privacy hedges. The flowers attract bees and butterflies, while some have leaves that turn lovely colors in the fall before they drop.

Botanical Name	Ligustrum
Common Name	Privet
Plant Type	Shrub
Mature Size	4 to 15 feet tall, 4 to 8 feet wide
Sun Exposure	Full sun, part sun
Soil Type	Varies
Soil pH	Tolerant of a wide range
Bloom Time	Summer
Flower Color	White
Hardiness Zones	5, 6, 7, 8
Native Area	Europe, North Africa, and Asia

# 28. Purple Wandering Jew



#### **Basic Wandering Jew Plant Care**

Wandering jew plant care requires bright, indirect light. If the light is too dim, the leaf markings will fade. Keep the soil slightly moist, but don't water directly into the crown as this will cause an unsightly <u>rot</u> [1] in your wandering jew plant. Care should be taken, particularly in winter, that the plant doesn't become too dry. Mist wandering jew plants frequently. Feed your plant monthly with a half-strength liquid fertilizer.

An important part of growing wandering jew plants is pinching back the long, vining tendrils. <u>Pinch back</u> [2] about a fourth of the plant to encourage branching and increase fullness.

One of the main reasons for asking, "How do I care for my wandering jew?' is the short life of the plant. Wandering jew

houseplants do not age well. No matter how well your wandering jew plant care is, they lose their leaves at the base while the long legs keep growing. Don't be surprised if your wandering jew plants need to be renewed once a year or so.

#### **How to Grow Wandering Jew Plants from Cuttings**

There are three ways to restart or grow a wandering jew houseplant.

The first is, to me, is the most efficient. Cut off a dozen long legs and bury the cut ends in fresh potting soil. Keep the soil moist and within a few weeks, you'll see new growth. Always make sure your soil is fresh, as the salt build up in old soil is lethal to wandering jew houseplants.

Even though these plants hate soggy feet in their pots, they love rooting in water. A dozen shoots placed in a glass of water in a sunny window will produce roots in no time.

The last way to re-root your wandering jew plant is to lay your cuttings right on top of the moist soil. Make sure each 'joint' makes contact with the soil. Roots will form at each joint and from each a new wandering jew houseplant will grow.

# 29. Red Yucca (Hesperaloe Yucca)



#### Yuccas

Four yucca species are suitable for home landscapes.

# Red Hesperaloe, Red Yucca

(Hesperaloe parviflora)
Evergreen
Height: 2–3 feet, with bloom
spike 5 feet
Spread: 5 feet

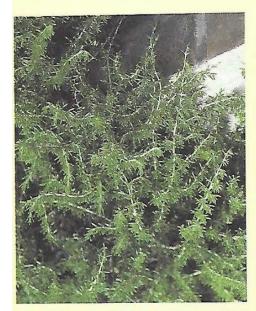
Growth Rate: Slow

Flower: Red or yellow March
through July
Soil: Limestone based, caliche,
adaptable
Maintenance: Remove spent
flower stalks for appearance.
Comments: Stunning yuccalike plant looks great in rock
gardens. Care-free, reliable
performer. Deer will eat flower
stalks but not leaves.



# 30. Rosemary

- **Prostrate** a.
- Upright b.



# PROSTRATE ROSEMARY



HARDINESS

Hardy throughout Texas

COLOR(S)

Blue

**BLOOM PERIOD** 

Spring and summer

MATURE SIZE (H x W) 2 to 4 ft. x spreading

#### WATER NEEDS

Water as needed only to prevent complete soil dryness.

#### PLANTING/CARE

Plant in spring after frost or in early fall; a slightly alkaline soil is preferred. Excellent drainage is critical. No need to fertilize. You may prune to obtain a desired shape.

#### PESTS/DISEASES

None serious

#### LANDSCAPING TIPS & IDEAS

An excellent groundcover in hot, full-sun, hard-to-water locations. Gorgeous when grown poolside and on decks, balconies, and patios, as well as hanging baskets. Serves well as an accent plant. A must for herb and kitchen gardens, and ideal for rock gardens. 153

# 31. Salvia Greggi (aka: Autumn Sage, Cherry Sage





#### Salvias

Texans love salvias, and salvias love Texas. We have so many to choose from: red, blue, yellow; short, tall; skinny or bushy; salvias for sun, others for shade. The selected five varieties do well here with little care. New varieties seem to arrive at garden stores every year. Enjoy and explore.

Autumn Sage (Salvia greggii) Height: 3 feet Spread: 3 feet

Bloom Color: Many colors Bloom Time: Spring through fall Comments: Very adaptable to

various soil types. Originally available only in red, but there are now many hybrids in colors including yellow, salmon, fuchsia, and purple. Cut back by one-third twice each season to keep shape and control growth.



# Salvia sp.

Sun or light afternoon shade. Grow to 15 inches to 6 feet tall, depending on species and variety. Increasingly popular group of shrubby perennials



Pineapple sage

grown for colorful summer and fall flowers. All are easily grown, and most should be readily available in garden centers in the spring. Give them ample moisture, and a monthly feeding of a complete-and-balanced fertilizer analysis. Prune them only as needed to keep them compact and dense. Some types freeze to the ground during winter, and the old stubble can be removed after the first frost.

# SALVIA

Salvia spp. and hybrids



#### HARDINESS

Hardy throughout Texas

#### COLOR(S)

Red, purple, blue, pink, magenta, yellow, and white

# BLOOM PERIOD

Summer through fall

#### MATURE SIZE (H x W) 1 to 6 ft. x 1 to 5 ft.

#### WATER NEEDS

New plantings need water once or twice a week, while established ones need water once a week during hot, dry weather.

#### PLANTING/CARE

Best in average, well-drained soil. Fertilize once in spring and once in summer. Trim off faded flower spikes. Prune in late summer for a shorter, bushier, fall-blooming plant.

#### PESTS/DISEASES

None

#### LANDSCAPING TIPS & IDEAS

Excellent for mixed beds and borders, as well as containers. There is a size and color for every location. The hybrid 'Indigo Spires' is a real winner, with long spikes of bluish-purple flowers on a somewhat sprawling plant over a very long season.



# 32. Skullcap (Scutelloria suffrutesens)



# Skullcap

(Scutellaria suffrutescens) Height: 6–8 inches Spread: 12–24 inches

Bloom Color: Pink-rose

Bloom Time: May through No-

vember

Comments: Compact plant with dense, mounding foliage makes it ideal for a ground cover. Great for rock gardens and borders. Loves heat and sun. Cutting back in early spring is about all the care it requires.



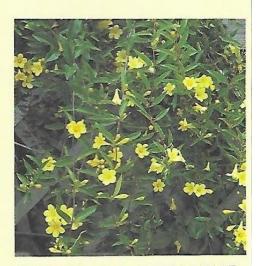
# 33. Yellow Jassmine (Vine)

# \*\*Carolina jasmine ■ ZONE 7 Sun, part sun or shade. Compact, bushy vine, to 10 to 25 feet tall. Native to the southeastern United States, East Texas included. Evergreen where it's adapted. Foliage is lanceolate, deep glossy green. Flowers in early spring, bright yellow, single, and tubular. Flowers delightfully fragrant. Foliage can show iron chlorosis when plants are grown in alkaline soils. Climbs by twining. Good \*\*Carolina jessamine\*\*

on fences, over patios, trailing over rock walls. Space plants 6 to 10 feet apart, and provide means of climbing (wires, etc.) to get the growth started upward. Very adaptable. Double-flowering form is also available, but the overall show is lessened compared to the single type.

Flower cluster of Carolina jessamine





# CAROLINA JESSAMINE

Gelsemium sempervirens



HARDINESS/TYPE

Hardy in USDA Zones 7 to 9; evergreen

COLOR(S)

Yellow

BLOOM PERIOD

Late winter to early spring

MATURE HEIGHT

Up to 20 ft.; twining

#### WATER NEEDS

Water sufficiently to prevent soil dryness, especially in late summer.

#### PLANTING/CARE

Plant in spring or fall, in full sun or shade (blooming is reduced in shady areas). Will grow in sandy, loamy, and clay soils, will tolerate damp conditions, and has moderate drought resistance. Mulch the root zone year-round. Fertilize regularly. Prune and train as necessary; growth is especially rapid in spring, so pay close attention to directing and training then.

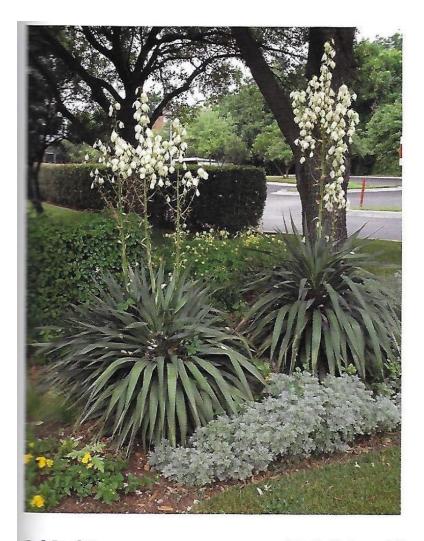
PESTS/DISEASES

None serious

#### LANDSCAPING TIPS & IDEAS

Grow on trellises or other large structures, tying to the support with elastic stretch ties. Does well in large tubs or planters on decks and balconies. May also be used to cover the ground and spill over slopes.

# 34. Yellow Verigated Yucca



#### Soft Leaf Yucca

(Yucca recurvifolia)

Evergreen

Height: 3–4 feet Spread: 3 feet

Growth Rate: Moderate

Flower: Spike of extravagant



white bell-shaped flowers in summer

Soil: Well drained, adaptable Maintenance: Remove old leaves and spent flower stalks for ap-

pearance.

Comments: A soft-looking yucca with swordlike leaves that bend downward. Attractive gray or green color. Deer will eat flower stalks but not leaves.

#### Boxwood



#### Boxwood

(*Buxus* spp.) Evergreen

Height: 4–6 feet Spread: 4–5 feet Bloom Time: Spring

Bloom Color: Creamy white, but

inconspicuous Growth Rate: Slow

Soil: Well drained, adaptable Maintenance: Shear to shape and control growth. Apply a general fertilizer in late winter. Comments: Boxwood has been a popular landscape staple since colonial times. Its dense, compact growth and small, rounded, shiny leaves make it a desirable choice for hedges, topiary, and formal landscape styles. Its shallow roots appreciate good drainage and a light mulch for protection from the heat. In a dry winter, water before a predicted freeze. Many cultivars are available. 'Morris Midget' is a dwarf variety.



# Dwarf Yaupon Holly "Nana" (Ilex vomiter)



#### **Dwarf Yaupon Holly**

(Ilex vomitoria 'Nana')

Evergreen

Height: 3–5 feet Spread: 3–6 feet Bloom Time: Spring Bloom Color: White

Growth Rate: Moderate to fast

Soil: Adaptable

Maintenance: Trim if desired.

Comments: Thriving in sun or shade, and tolerating many kinds of soil conditions, the trouble-free dwarf yaupon holly is a difficult plant to beat. Excellent candidate for specimen, hedge, or topiary. Try the very slow-growing, compact 'Stokes' variety for small spaces or where finer foliage is desired.



#### **Knock out Roses**



# **Pruning:**

A light pruning to maintain shape and size can be done in late winter or early spring while still dormant. This will help keep your Knock Outs healthy and promote growth in spring. Although deadheading is not needed, it will encourage re-flowering.

#### **Amendments & Fertilizer:**

Mature Knock Out roses will benefit from a general purpose or rose fertilizer applied regularly during the growing season. Stop fertilizing a month before your first frost date. Do not fertilize Knock Out roses immediately after planting—it is best to let them establish through a complete bloom cycle first.

## Watering:

Water regularly during the first growing season to allow a good root system to develop. After that, a good guideline is to water when the top 2-3 inches of soil is dry. It is best to water them deeply and in the morning. Although they are drought tolerant, a good layer of mulch will help retain moisture during hot or dry periods.

#### **Diseases and Pests:**

Knock Outs have greatly improved disease resistance when compared to traditional tea roses and often require no fungicide treatments.

#### Winterize:

In most cases, a few inches of mulch is all your Knock Outs will need to protect them over the winter. If temperatures are forecast to drop well below freezing, you may want to cover your Knock Out roses with a frost blanket or wrap them in burlap.

#### Rose of Sharon



#### How to Grow a Rose of Sharon

Care for rose of Sharon, botanically named *Hibiscus syriacus*, is minimal. After planting rose of Sharon, this attractive specimen may thrive with neglect. However, some care, especially pruning for shape [1], will likely be needed for this showy shrub to add value to your landscape display.

Also known as shrub Althea, this 9- to 12-foot specimen is a native of eastern Asia that is well adapted to growing in most USDA plant hardiness zones. It often reaches a spread of 10 feet and can be used as part of a growing privacy border.

When planting rose of Sharon in the landscape, consider that it may reseed abundantly. Prepare to remove additional plants appearing in unwanted areas. These can be relocated to a more

desirable location or shared with friends.

Shrub Althea is best planted into rich well-draining, slightly acidic soil in a full sun to part shade location. The rose of Sharon bush prefers moist, well-draining soil, although it will tolerate most soil conditions except those that are soggy or extremely dry. A top dressing of organic compost or mulch may benefit the rose of Sharon bush.

#### Ongoing Care for Rose of Sharon

Bud drop can be a problem with growing rose of Sharon. This may be caused in part when the rose of Sharon bush is under stressful conditions, so try to keep the shrub as happy as possible. Too little water or too much fertilization may contribute to bud drop, which seems inherent to the rose of Sharon bush. Monitor conditions on growing rose of Sharon to be rewarded with a long season of large showy single or double blooms.

Flowers grow on the current year's growth; early pruning before buds develop can keep the growing rose of Sharon in top form and keep the tree-like shrub in bounds.

A deciduous shrub, learning how to grow a rose of Sharon and keep it under control is best done with experimentation on your cultivar. Some have attractive drooping branches while others assume an upright form. Care for rose of Sharon can depend on the form taken by your specimen.

#### Chinese Pistache Tree

The Chinese pistache tree is, as mentioned, a notable ornamental tree, especially during the fall season when the normally dark green foliage changes to a dramatic profusion of orange and red leaves. An excellent shade tree with a broad canopy, Chinese pistache will attain heights of between 30-60 feet. A <u>deciduous tree</u> [2], the one foot long pinnate leaves consist of between 10-16 leaflets. These leaves are mildly aromatic when bruised.

*Pistacia chinensis*, as the name suggests, is related to the <u>pistachio</u> <sup>[3]</sup>; however, it does not produce nuts. Instead, if a male Chinese pistache tree is present, the female trees bloom in April with inconspicuous green blossoms that develop into clumps of brilliant red berries in the fall, changing to a blue-purple hue in the winter.

While the berries are inedible for human consumption, the birds go nuts for them. Keep in mind that the bright colored berries will drop and may stain or create a slippery walkway. If this is a concern, consider planting *P. chinensis* 'Keith Davey,' a fruitless male clone.



Native to China, Taiwan and the Philippines, Chinese pistache grows at a moderate pace (13-24 inches per year) and is relatively long lived. It is also tolerant of many soil types as well as being drought tolerant with roots that grow deep into the soil. The bark of growing Chinese pistache is grayish-brown and, if peeled from the tree, reveals a shocking salmon pink interior.

#### **Chinese Pistache Uses**

Chinese pistache is not a fussy tree. It can be grown in USDA zones 6-9 in a variety of soils as long as the soil is well draining. It is a sturdy tree with deep roots that make it an ideal specimen for near patios and sidewalks. It is heat and drought tolerant and winter hardy to 20 degrees F. (-6 C.) as well as relatively pest and fire resistant.

Use Chinese pistache anywhere you would like to add a shade addition to the landscape with the bonus of an opulent fall appearance. This member of the Anacardiaceae family also makes a lovely container specimen for the patio or garden.

#### **Care of Chinese Pistache**

The Chinese pistache is a sun lover and should be situated in an area of at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight per day. As mentioned, Chinese pistache isn't picky about the soil it's grown in as long as it drains well. Choose a site of not only plenty of sun, but with fertile soil deep enough to accommodate the long taproots and at least 15 feet away from nearby structures to account for their growing canopies.

Dig a hole as deep as and 3-5 times as wide as the root ball of the tree. Center the tree in the hole, spreading the roots out evenly. Refill the hole; don't amend it, as it is not necessary. Tamp the dirt down lightly around the base of the tree to remove any air pockets. Water the tree in well and spread a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch around the base, away from the trunk to discourage fungal disease, rodents and insects.

Although Chinese pistache trees are fairly disease and pest resistant, they are susceptible to <u>verticillium wilt</u> [4]. Avoid planting them in any area that has had previous contamination.

Once the tree has been planted, <u>continue to water</u> [5] twice a week for the next month while the tree acclimates. Thereafter, check the soil once a week and water only when the top one inch is dry.

Feed trees under 5 years old in the spring and fall with a nitrogen based fertilizer. Use one that is supplemented with superphosphate only if they are growing less than 2-3 feet per year to give them a boost.

Young Chinese pistache should be pruned in January or February to facilitate their signature umbrella shape. When trees are six feet tall, prune the tops of the trees. As branches emerge, choose one as the trunk, another as a branch and prune out the remainder. When the tree has grown another three feet, prune them to 2 feet above the previous cut to encourage branching. Repeat this process until the trees are symmetrical with an open canopy.

Keep leaf debris and fallen berries raked up from around the trees to prevent unwanted seedlings.