

Species to Avoid and Alternatives to Embrace

The invasive plants on this list represent the greatest threat to our natural Central and South Texas flora, and should not be planted in gardens in the Austin-San Antonio area. Native and well-adapted alternatives shown here represent only of few of the many choices available.

| | Invasive Species to be Avoided | Native or Well-adapted Alternatives |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Trees | tree-of-heaven (ghetto palm) paper mulberry Chinese parasol-tree chinaberry Chinese pistache (Chinese pistachio) bitter orange Chinese tallow | Live, burr, chinquapin, red, lacy and many other oaks cedar elm pecan sabal palm bigtooth maple crape myrtle Texas smoke tree wild olive flameleaf sumac black walnut |
| Shrubs | loquat fig ligustrum (privet) nandina (heavenly bamboo) firethorn (pyracantha) MacCartney rose salt cedar (tamarisk) chaste bush (purple chaste tree, vitex) | agarita Texas pistache redbud Mexican plum Texas persimmon Texas mountain laurel yaupon holly Mexican buckeye cenizo (Texas sage) esperanaza (yellow bells) upright rosemary firebush |
| Vines and Creepers | autumn clematis English ivy Japanese honeysuckle large periwinkle (<i>Vinca major</i>) | trumpet creeper white bush-honeysuckle coral honeysuckle Carolina Jessamine Virginia creeper passionflower |
| Perennials | yellow flag Britton's wild petunia (Katy's wild petunia, Katy's ruellia) | American beautyberry Turk's cap autumn sage butterfly weed indigo spires |
| Ferns | holly fern | powdery fern (false cloak fern) river fern |
| Grasses and Sedges | Umbrella plant (umbrella sedge) yellow bamboo (running bamboo) | pond flatsedge big bluestem inland seaoats Indian grass sideoats grama |
| Aquatic Plants | elephant ear (taro) water hyacinth yellow flag water lettuce | water clover fern white water lily American lotus pickerelweed |