

Earth-Kind[®] Landscapes for Texas- Tough Conditions

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What is Earth-Kind®?



- A research-proven method of maintaining ornamental landscapes from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Beautiful plants and landscapes
- Preserves and protects the environment
 - Reduce water use by 70%
 - Eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides
 - Reduces landscape wastes entering landfills

Earth-Kind Soil Preparation



- Remove existing vegetation
- Add amendments
 - 3 inches compost
 - Expanded shale (if in heavy clay)
- Select adapted plants
- Mulch!

Adapted Plants

- Earth-Kind Plant Selector
<http://ekps.tamu.edu/>
- 0 to 10 Earth-Kind Index
- Based on anecdotal recognition of plant performance



Large Trees



- Shade
- 50 ft or more tall
- 50 ft or more wide
- Often too big for home lawns
- Usually not for color

Burr Oak

- Very large tree
- 75 ft tall or more
- 100 ft wide or more
- Large acorn
- Very tough and beautiful



Shumard Red Oak



- To 60 ft tall
- To 60 ft wide
- Dappled shade
- Fall color variable
- Susceptible to Oak Wilt

Cedar Elm

- To 70 ft tall
- To 70 ft wide
- Excellent heat and drought tolerance
- Fair fall color (yellow-orange)



Bald Cypress



- 70 to 100 ft tall
- 30 to 50 ft wide
- Pyramidal shape
- Orange to brown fall color
- Very long lived!

Small Trees



- 30 ft tall or less
- May provide some shade
- Primarily used for color

Redbud

- Native small tree
- White to pink to purple blooms in early spring
- Very heat and drought tolerant
- Will tolerate some shade



Possumhaw



- Also known as deciduous yaupon
- 8 to 12 ft tall
- 6 to 10 ft wide
- Fruit red, orange, or yellow, in fall
- Excellent food source for birds

Yaupon Holly

- Evergreen
- 10 to 15 ft tall
- 8 to 10 ft wide
- Fruits red, orange, or yellow, in fall
- Most heat and drought tolerant small tree for our area



Shrubs



- Large (>15 ft) to dwarf (< 3 ft)
- Foundation
- Accent
- Mass plantings
- The foundation of every landscape

Crepe Myrtle

- 25 ft to 2 ft
- Flower color from white to pink to purple to red
- Bark tan or cinnamon
- Fall leaf color yellow to red



Hollies



- 3 ft to 20 ft
- Evergreen, usually with at least one spine
- Red fruit in fall and winter
- Carissa
- Dwarf Burford
- Needlepoint
- Nellie R. Stevens

Glossy Abelia

- Semi-evergreen shrub
- Full sun to partial shade
- 3 to 8 ft tall
- White or pink flowers
- Excellent for butterflies



Texas Sage (Cenizo)



- To 8 ft tall
- To 6 ft wide
- Foliage appearing grayish green
- Blooms white or lavender, summer
- Excellent heat and drought tolerance
- Blooms in response to rain?

Perennials

- Planted for color or culinary uses
- Wide range of colors
- Focus on those with long bloom cycles (Apr to Nov)



Henry Duelberg Salvia



- 3 ft tall and wide
- Zone 7 (0 °F)
- Excellent heat and drought resistance
- Prolific reseeder

Augusta Duelberg Salvia

- To 3 ft tall and wide
- White flowers
- Excellent heat and drought tolerance



John Fanick Phlox



- To 3 ft tall and 2 ft wide
- Zone 4 (-30 °F)
- Light pink blossom
- May to November

Turk's Cap

- To 4 ft tall
- To 6 ft wide
- Flowers red or pink
- Full sun to full shade
- Hummingbirds



Lantana



- To 3 ft tall
- To 5 ft wide
- Flowers yellow orange or yellow pink
- Very tough!

Plant Science Center, Commerce, TX



Earth-Kind Landscapes



- Properly manage the soil
- Select adapted plants
- At constant, sub-optimal soil nutrition, plants maintain normal, healthy growth
- Maintenance of organic mulches helps keep the soil healthy
- Healthy soil – Healthy plants!

Questions?

