Native Landscaping: Why is it critical?



TEXAS WILDSCAPES

Backyard

IstideH alilbliW

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Science, Research and Diversity Program

> John Davis Kyle Parks and Recreation Dept. Conservation Division Manager

Introduction:







30 years with TPWD -Biologist (Retired) Wildlife Diversity Program ~3 years with Austin PARD – Biologist Nature Preserves

~7 mos. - Kyle PARD Conservation Division Manager Theme: Restoring native landscapes is critical to addressing many of our pressing ecological concerns. Native Landscaping: Why is it critical?

What is "native" plant?
What's happening?
What can you do?

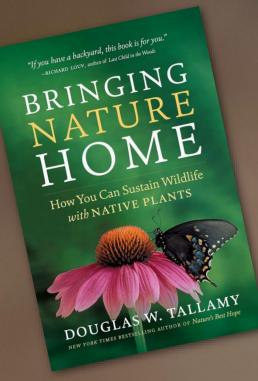


What exactly is a "native" plant?

"Originated in a particular ecosystem"
"Not introduced from elsewhere"
"Historically grew in North America"
"Here before European settlement"
"Native to Texas"
"Native to X County"

What exactly is a "native" plant?

A plant that is functioning in its ecological niche by deeply interacting with the historic ecological community and relationships that shaped it over very long periods of time.



- Dr. Doug Tallamy p.66 (summarized)

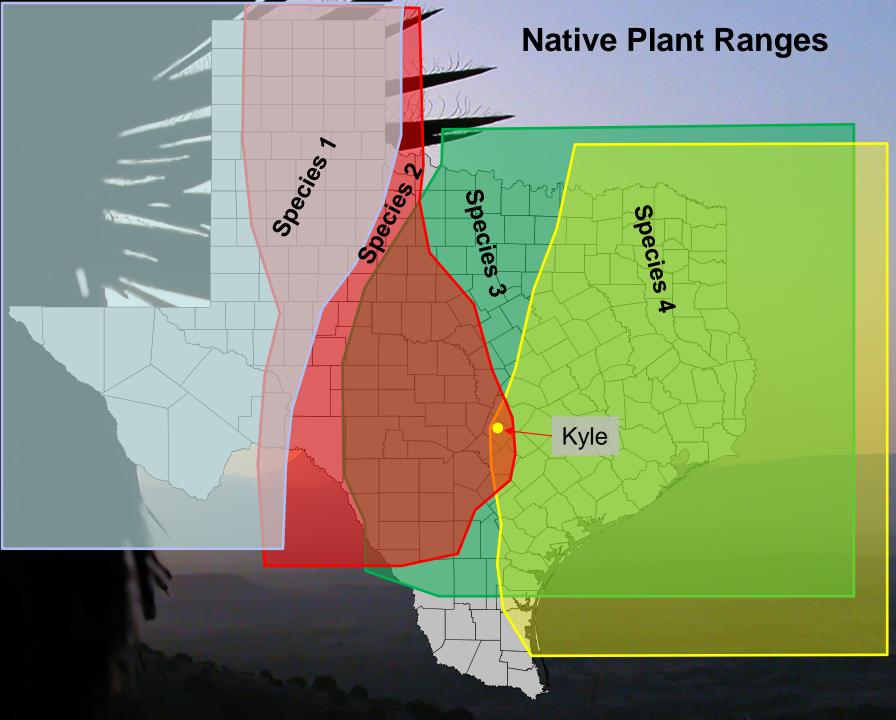
> Ligated Furrow Bee on Upright Coneflower

What exactly is a "native" plant?

With this definition, statements like "native to the U.S." or "native to Texas" mean nothing.

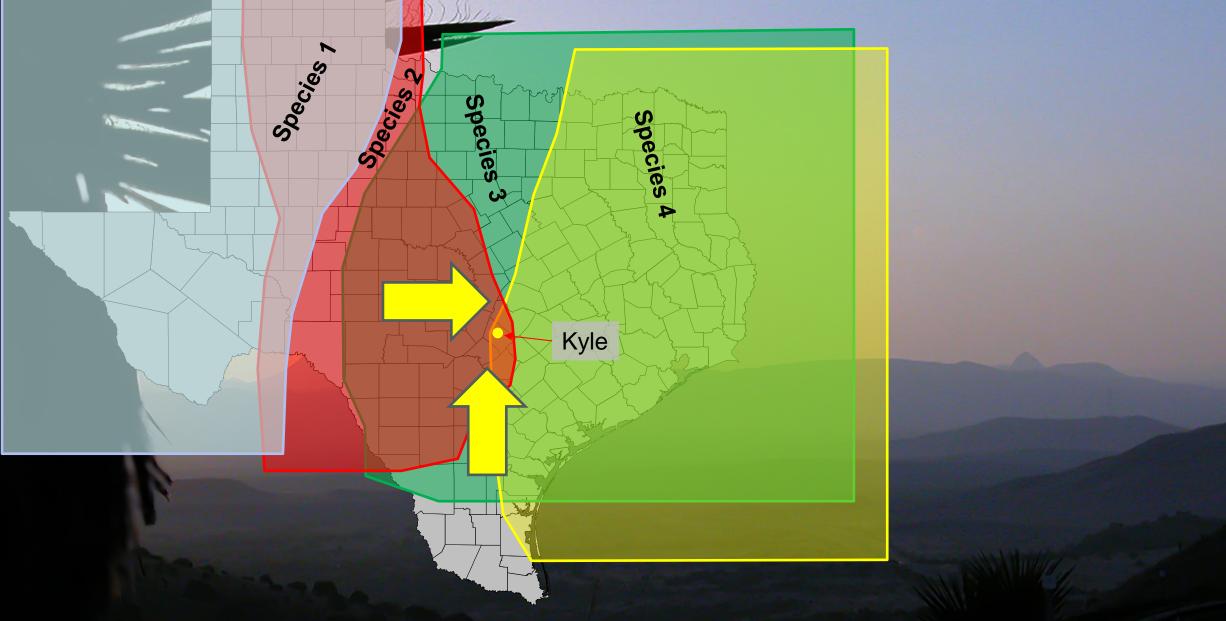
West Texas isn't Central Texas
Ecological relationships aren't maintained
Conditions / niches aren't the same

Ligated Furrow Bee on Upright Coneflower

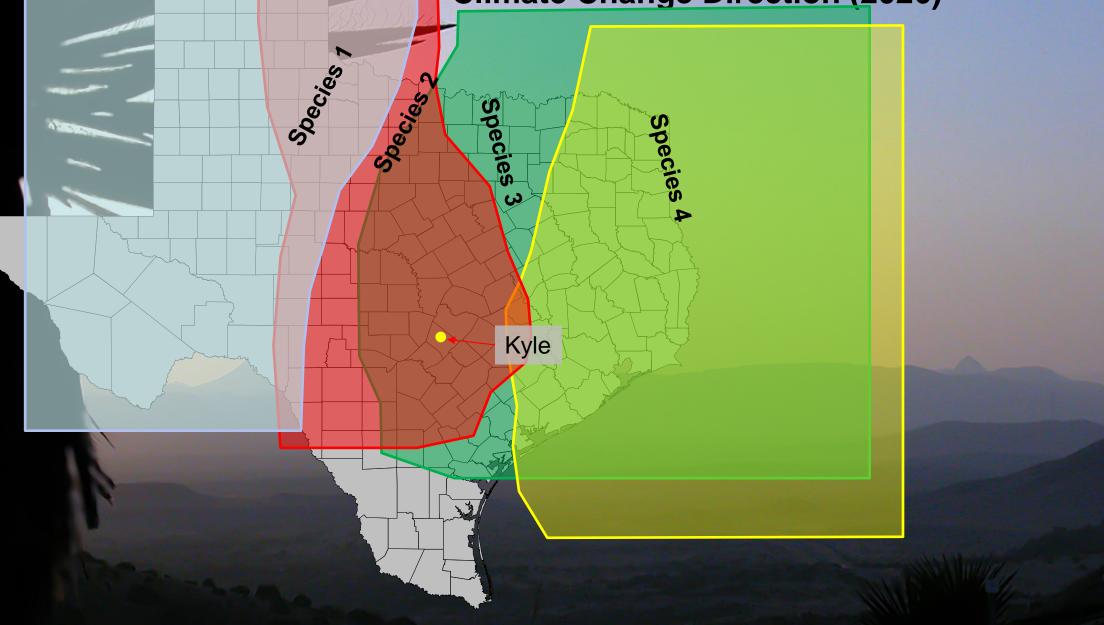


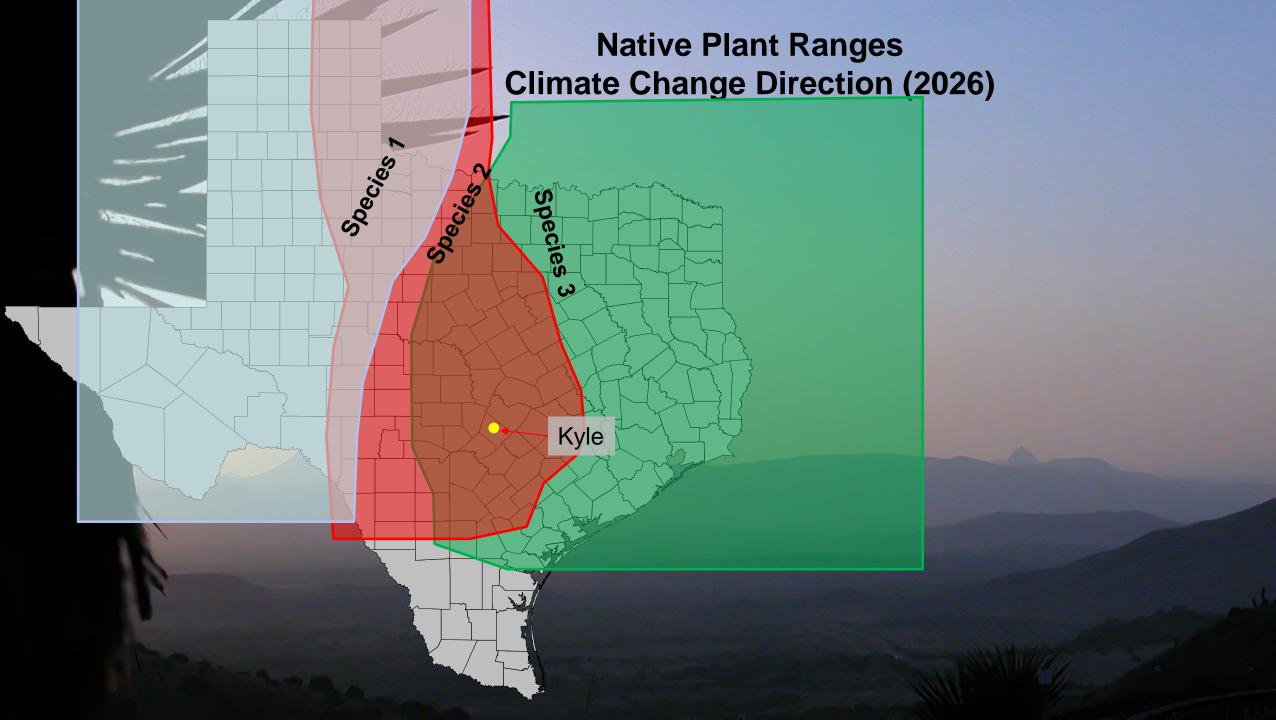
Species 1 – not in range Species 2 – easternmost edge Species 3 – well in range Species 4 – westernmost edge

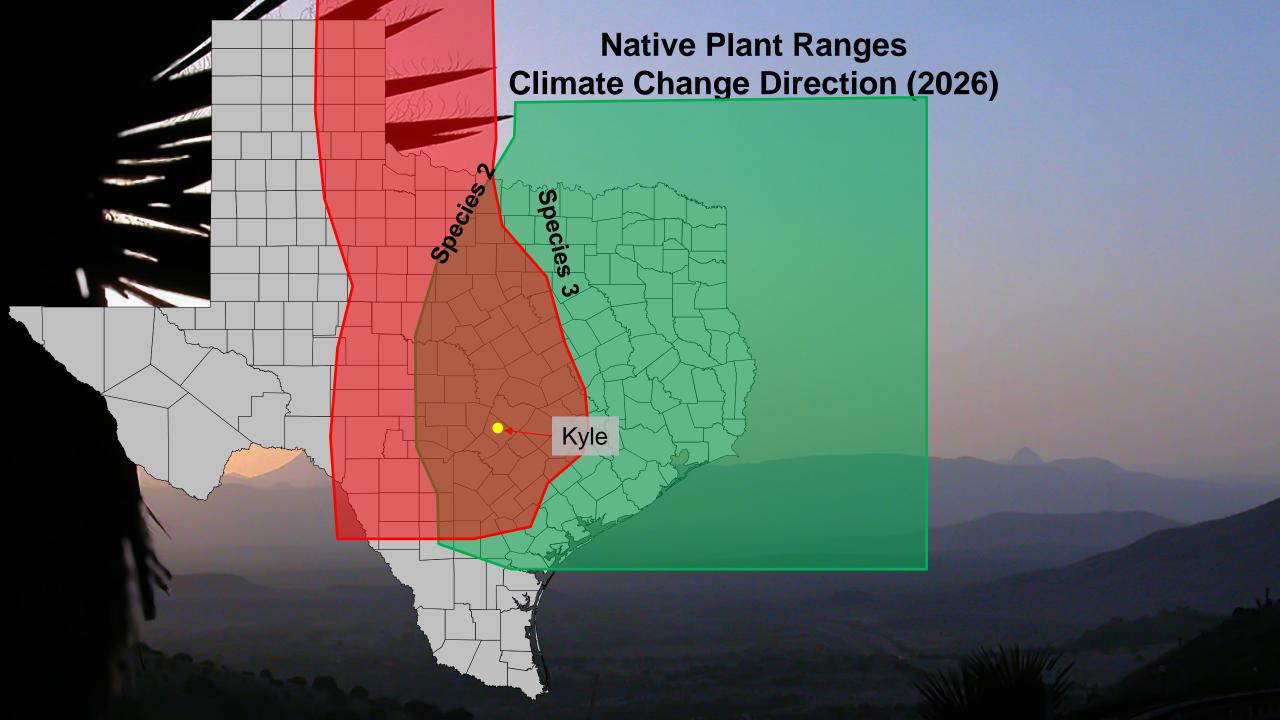
Native Plant Ranges Climate Change Direction (2026)



Native Plant Ranges Climate Change Direction (2026)







City of Kyle Native Plant 24 County Target Zone

- San Angelo Austin Mas. Llan. Kyle Kerr Bar Med. San Antonio
- Climate change
 Generally moving N and E
 Austin like San Angelo 2026?
 Not quite "assisted migration"
 Slow ecological molding
 "Native 2.0" (now AND future)
 Relationships preserved
 NOT W. TX or AZ

Native Shade Trees

Chittamwood
Pecan
Black Hickory
Hackberry
Bur Oak

Live Oak
Chinkapin Oak
Shumard Oak
American Elm
Cedar Elm

Cottonwood
Sycamore
Black Willow
Red Mulberry
Etc.

Native Ornamental Trees

Mountain Laurel
Texas Redbud
Rusty Blackhaw
Green Hawthorn
Mexican Plum

Mexican Buckeye
Red Buckeye
Lanceleaf Sumac
Texas Pistache
Carolina Buckthorn

Hercules' Club
Yaupon Holly
Decid. Holly
Texas Persimmon
Etc.

Native Shrubs

Flame Acanthus
Coralberry
Am. Beautyberry
Autumn Sage

Turk's Cap
Rock Rose
False Indigo
Elbowbush

Fragrant Sumac
Tx. Lantana
Cenizo
Etc.

Native Perennials

Coneflower
Mealy Blue Sage
Blackfoot Daisy
Prairie Verbena

Milkweeds
Wild Columbine
Chile Pequin
Winecup

Gregg's Mistflower
Maximillian Sunflower
Gayfeather
Etc.

Native Grasses

Inland Seaoats
Little Bluestem
Lindheimer's Muhly
Sideoats Grama
Hairy Grama

Native Groundcovers

Horseherb
 Frogfruit

Native Vines

Coral Honeysuckle
Purple Passionflower (P. incarnata)
Yellow Passionflower (P. lutea)
Fetid Passionflower (P. foetida)
Virginia Creeper

Native Landscaping: Why is it critical?

What is "native" plant?
What's happening?
What can you do?





Coming Soon: TO THIS 20 ACRE SITE ANOTHER BIG SHOPPING CENTER Compliments of... Larry & Ted







Water Impacts

Pesticides
Herbicides
Fertilizers

Water Impacts

•Yard chemicals •Heavy metals •Petroleum residue



Reduced infiltration Concentrated runoff

During Rain Event Water Impacts After Rain Event



Flooding

ScouringIncisingWidening

Vegetation Impacts

Non-Native Species

Vegetation Impacts

•Water •Fertilizer •Pesticides





























European Starling



English Sparrow

Invasive Exotic Animals Increase



Red Imported Fire Ant



European Honeybee (Invasive Exotic Species)

Not native
Not efficient pollinator
Aggressive, will sting
Competes with natives
hive costs 110,000 native bee offspring!

Lose Diversity of Native Bees!















•800 species in Texas!
•Much more beautiful
•True conservation need

- Much better pollinators
- 1 native bee = 10 to 300 honeybees!



Honeybee

Scopa

Corbicula



Native Bee

- More flowers/minute
- "Belly flop"
- Greater weather tolerance



Sweat Bee

Furrow Bee

Mining Bee

- "Personal pollinators"
- Central place foragers
- 0.6 miles or less (most ~300 yards)
- Some only 15 yards



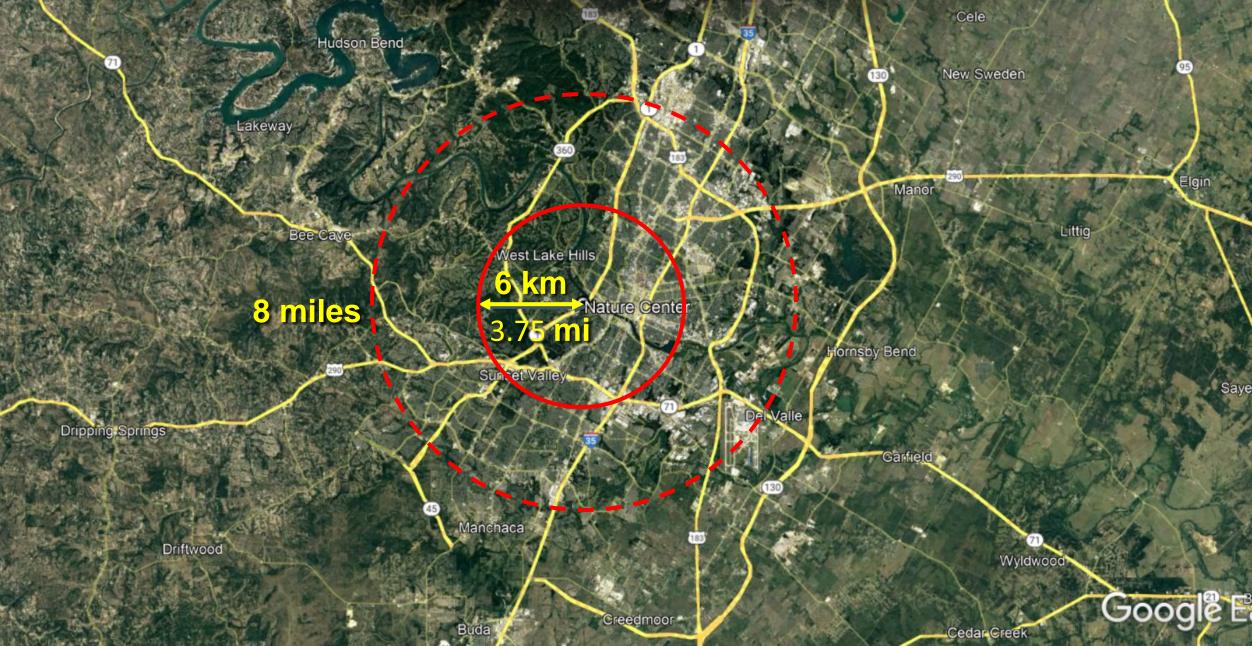
Leaf Cutter Bee (15mm or 0.6")

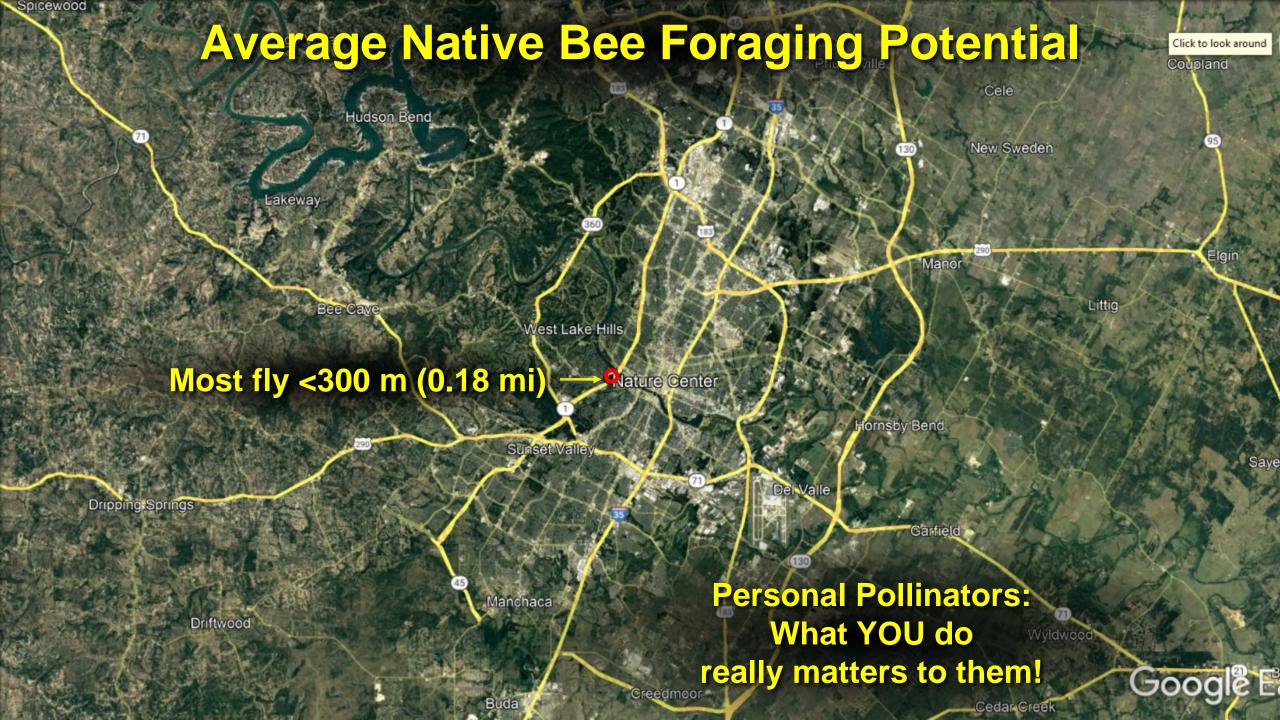


Metallic Sweat Bee (4mm or 0.15")









- Much safer
- >90% are solitary no hive to defend
- Reluctant to sting at all
- Venom composition = low anaphylaxis risk



Honeybee = social

Leaf cutter bee = solitary



Greatly Impact Invertebrate Herbivores (basis of food web)



Striped Sweat Bee





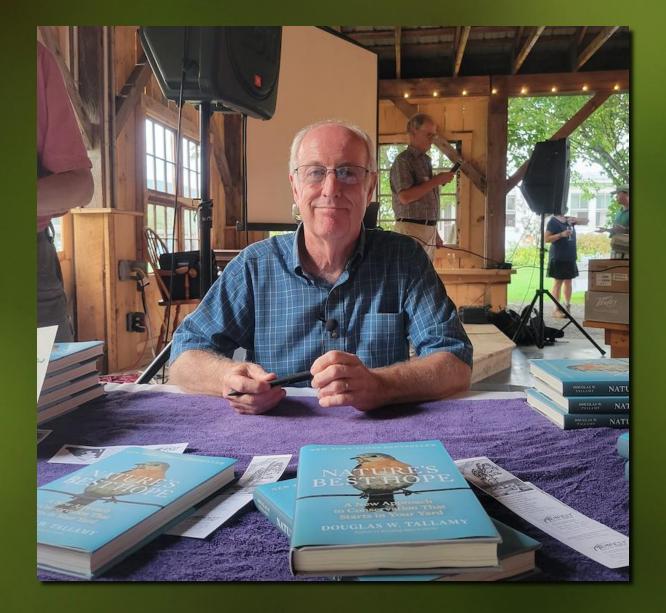
Furrow Bee



Metallic Sweat Bee

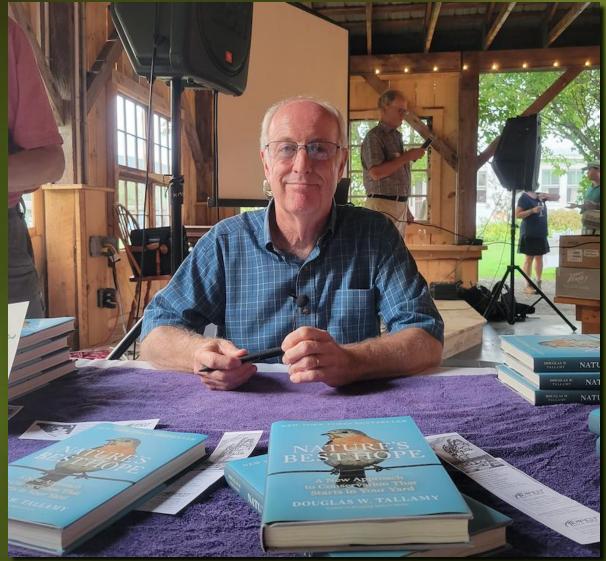
Leafcutter Bee

Research



Doug Tallamy, PhD Entomologist, Univ. of Delaware Author: *Nature's Best Hope, Bringing Nature Home, and The Nature of Oaks*





Simple, yet profound truth...

•Exotics don't feed most native insects
•No native insects = no food web

Harsh Impact of Exotic Landscapes

•68% fewer caterpillar species
•91% fewer caterpillars
•96% less overall caterpillar biomass! (Richard, et al. 2018)

Geometrid moth caterpillars on Gregg's Mistflower

Food Web

"It takes 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to raise one clutch of eggs." -Doug Tallamy

Native Landscaping: Why is it critical?

What is "native" plant?
What's happening?
What can you do?

Plant natives!

Formal approach

No fertilizer No pesticide Survive on rainfall

More natural look

Most Valuable Trees (Dr. Tallamy)

- Oaks (Quercus)
- Plums/Cherries (Prunus)
- Willows (Salix)



Trees – Oaks...

- Blackjack Oak
- Post Oak
- Live Oak
- Shumard Red Oak
- Chinquapin Oak
- Bur Oak



Quercus sp.

Species Fed: (Fruit/Mast) -Wood Duck, Bobwhite, Turkey, Jays, Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Woodpeckers, Raccoon, Squirrels, Wood Rat (Foliage) – White tailed deer, Javelina, LHP many species of lepidopterans

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				



Species Fed: (Fruit/Mast) – Songbirds, Squirrels (Foliage) – White tailed deer, rabbits, LHP for various lepidopterans

- Cedar Elm
- American Elm
- Slippery Elm



Ulmus sp.

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Trees – Hackberry

Species Fed: (Fruit/Mast) –Songbirds, Bobwhite, Golden fronted Woodpecker (Foliage) – White tailed deer, LHP for Question Mark, Mourning Cloak, Snout & Hackberry butterflies.



Celtis laevigata

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Trees – Black Walnut

Species Fed: (Fruit/Mast) – Woodpeckers, Squirrel, Beaver, Fox (Foliage) – LHP for many Lepidopterans



Juglans nigra

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Trees – Mexican Plum

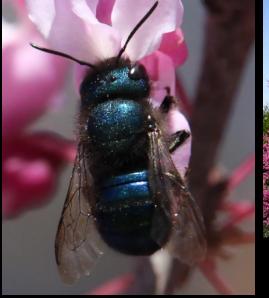
Species Fed: (Fruits) – Various birds and mammals (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Butterflies, numerous insects (Foliage) – LHP for Tiger Swallowtail butterfly



		Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
	Nectar	Mar, Apr			Feb
	Seeds				
	Fruit / Mast				
Prunus mexicana	Veg.				

Trees – Texas Redbud

Species Fed: (Seeds) – Numerous Songbirds (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Butterflies, numerous insects (Foliage) – White tailed deer, LHP for Henry's Elfin butterfly



Currant Mason Bee





Cercis canadensis var. texensis

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar	Mar			
Seeds			Sep	
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Shrubs – American Beautyberry

Species Fed: (Fruits) – Bobwhite, Mockingbird, Cardinal, Thrashers, Robin, Finches, Towhees, Raccoon, Opossum, Gray Fox, LHP for Rustic Sphinx Moth



Callicarpa americana

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Shrubs – Turk's Cap

Species Fed: (Fruits) – Various songbirds and mammals (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds, LHP for White Skipper



Malvaviscus drummondii

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar	Мау			
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Shrubs – Autumn Sage

Species Fed: (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Ruby Throated Hummingbird

		Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
	Nectar	Apr, May			Dec
	Seeds				
	Fruit / Mast				
Salvia greggii	Veg.				

Shrubs – Coralberry

Species Fed: (Fruits) – at least 12 species of birds including cardinals, bobwhite, quail, wild turkey bluebirds, robins, mockingbirds, thrashers & cedar waxwings (Nectar) bees and other insects (Vegetation) LHP for Snowberry Clearwing



Snowberry Clearwing



Symphoricarpos orbiculata

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Vines – Coral Honeysuckle

Species Fed: (Nectar/Pollen) – Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Orioles (Fruit) – Some Songbirds (Foliage) – LHP for Spring Azure butterfly



Lonicera sempervirens

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				Dec
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Vines – Passionflower

Species Fed: (Fruit) – Several species of birds (Nectar) – Butterflies, insects (Foliage) – LHP for Zebra Long Wing, Gulf Fritillary, Julia butterflies



Passiflora incarnata also *lutea* and *foetida*

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar			Sep	
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast		Jun		
Veg.				

Grasses – Canada Wildrye

Species Fed: (Seeds) – Various songbirds and mammals (Foliage) – White tailed deer, LHP for Zabulon Skipper



Elymus canadensis

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds	Мау			
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Grasses – Little Bluestem

Species Fed: (Seeds) – Various songbirds and mammals (Foliage) – LHP for Delaware Skipper & Crossline Skipper



Schizachyrium scoparium

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Grasses – Inland Seaoats

Species Fed: (Seeds) – Various songbirds and mammals (Foliage) – Various mammals, nesting material for birds, LHP for Bell's roadside skipper & Bronzed roadside skipper



Chasmanthium latifolium

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Milkweeds

Species Fed: (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Various Butterflies, LHP Monarch, Queen

- Antelope-horns
- Zizotes Milkweed
- Texas Milkweed
- Butterflyweed
- Green Milkweed
- Etc.
- (NOT tropical)



Asclepias sp.

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar	Apr		Sept	
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Engelman's Daisy

Species Fed: (Veg) high protein – Livestock, Deer, Rabbits (Seeds) - Birds (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Various Butterflies



Engelmannia peristenia

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar	Mar	Jul		
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Blackfoot Daisy

Species Fed: (Seeds) - Birds (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Various Butterflies



Melampodium leucanthum

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar	Mar		Nov	
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Winecup

Species Fed: (Nectar/Pollen) – Bees, Various Butterflies, LHP for Gray Hairstreak – Recognized by Xerces Society as a plant with Special Value to Native Bees





Callirhoe involucrata

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Gregg's Mistflower

Species Fed: (Nectar/Pollen) – Various insects, Queens and Monarchs love it!, LHP for Rawson's Metalmark



Conoclinium greggii

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Sunflowers

Species Fed: (Nectar/Pollen) – Various Insects and Butterflies, Seeds eaten by granivorous birds, esp. sparrows, LHP for Lepidopterans

- Common
- Maximilian



	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – Mealy Blue Sage

Species Fed: (Nectar) – Various Insects and Butterflies. Occasional hummingbirds.



Salvia farinacea

	Spr	Sum	Fall	Win
Nectar				
Seeds				
Fruit / Mast				
Veg.				

Forbs – "Weeds"

Smallflower Desert Chicory, Texas Dandelion (Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus)



Small Metallic Sweat Bees

Mining Bee

Mining Bee



Green Metallic Sweat Bee on a "weedy" aster



Sweat Bee on Crow Poison

Forbs – "Weeds"



(very tiny) Metallic Sweat Bee on a "weedy" aster

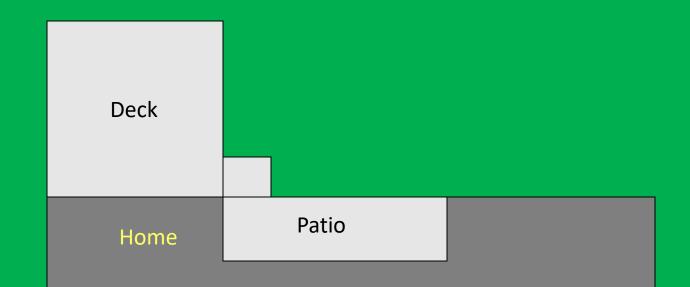
(white heath aster)



Furrow Bee on Mx Hat

Space – How to arrange things

Typical Landscape Without Native Plants

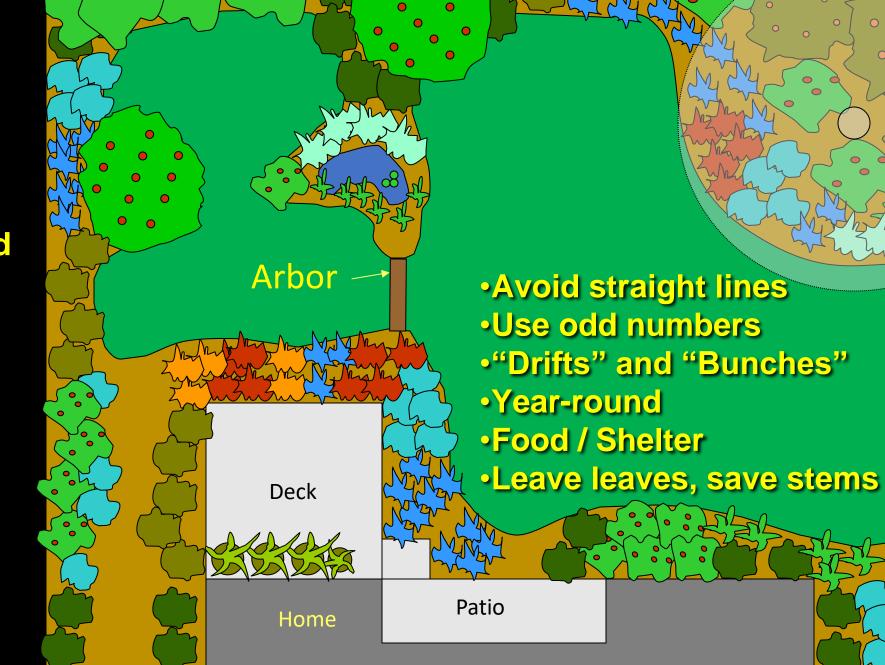


"More Accessible" Approach to Native Plants



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Heavily Planted with **Native Plants**



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Support Habitat Restoration

ATTA ATTA ATTA

ParksNatural Areas

Benefits of planting natives

Land containing fibrous rooted plants absorbs runoff 127% faster than bare ground. (Pearse and Wooley, 1936)

Prairie Cordgrass Switchgrass Big Bluestem -5 5 8 9-Figure 3-3: Characteristic root development of Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, and Prairie Cordgrass. Source: Weaver, 1968

Benefits of "Leaf Litter"

Oak leaves make GREAT mulch!
Leave them... please
2" downpour captured
Slowly released and filtered
~70 moth species develop on fallen oak leaves (The Nature of Oaks, Doug Tallamy)

Natives Avoid Lost Opportunity

J. exter

Crepe Myrtles (14)
Native to Asia
Supports 3 species

Lost Opportunity

Live Oak
 Native to Kyle
 Supports 500+ species

Native Landscaping: Why is it critical?

What is "native" plant?
What's happening?
What can you do?

Theme: Restoring native landscapes is critical to addressing many of our pressing ecological concerns.

Their future is in our hands.

Native Landscaping: Why is it critical?



TEXAS WILDSCAPES

Backyard

IstideH alilbliW

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Create Habitat!

"This is the 'it' book ... It's really struck a nerve." —PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

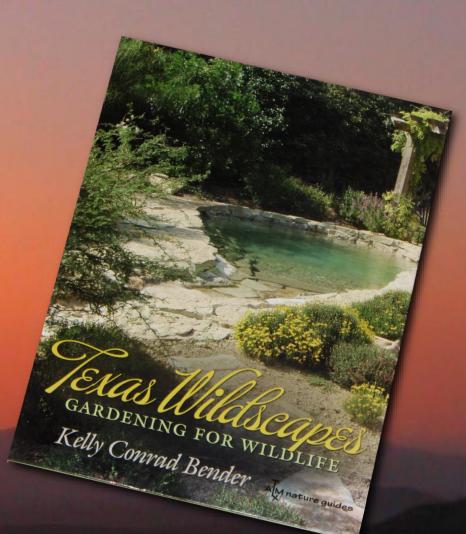
BRINGING NATURE HOME

Native Texas Plants LANDSCAPING Region by Region

> y Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski

How You Can Sustain Wildlife with NATIVE PLANTS





Native Landscaping Resources: Books

U.T. Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

https://www.wildfilower.org/collections/

Plants for Pollinators

<u>Butterflies and Moths of North America</u> - Plants that are valuable to moths and butterflies. <u>Special Value to Native Bees</u> - Attracts large numbers of native bees.* <u>Special Value to Bumble Bees</u> - Attracts large numbers of bumble bees.* <u>Special Value to Honey Bees</u> - Important pollen or nectar sources (honey plant) for honey bees.* <u>Provides Nesting Materials/Structure for Native Bees</u> - Plants that native bees nest beneath, within, or harvest parts from to construct their nests.* <u>Supports Conservation Biological Control</u> - Plants that attracts predatory or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.* California Pollinator Plant List*

*This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at <u>The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation</u>.

Native Landscaping Resources: Online

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation

Conserving Pollinators In Your Landscape

The Xerces Society works across a broad array of landscapes to conserve pollinators, and can offer information to support your efforts.



Yards & Gardens



Farmlands



Rangelands



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U.T. – Dr. Shalene Jha Lab

https://w3.biosci.utexas.edu/jha/native-bees

Dr. Shalene Jha

Native Bees

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Pollination Services



Out of 20,000+ bee species that have been described worldwide, approximately 4,000 inhabit North America (Northern Mexico, U.S., Canada) and ~1000 live in Texas. Colonies of the single species of Western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) were brought to the American continent in the 1600's by Europeans who kept apiaries for honey, wax, and mead. Indigenous Americans had harvested honey from several tropical native bee species.

(Native bee, Apis mellifera. Photo: Kathy Keatley Garvey, The University of California Regents).

Beyond honey and wax, bees provide important ecosystem services by pollinating ~87% of wild plants. Bees are key pollinators that visit flowers for nectar and pollen and facilitate pollination by consistently transferring pollen between plants of the same species (floral

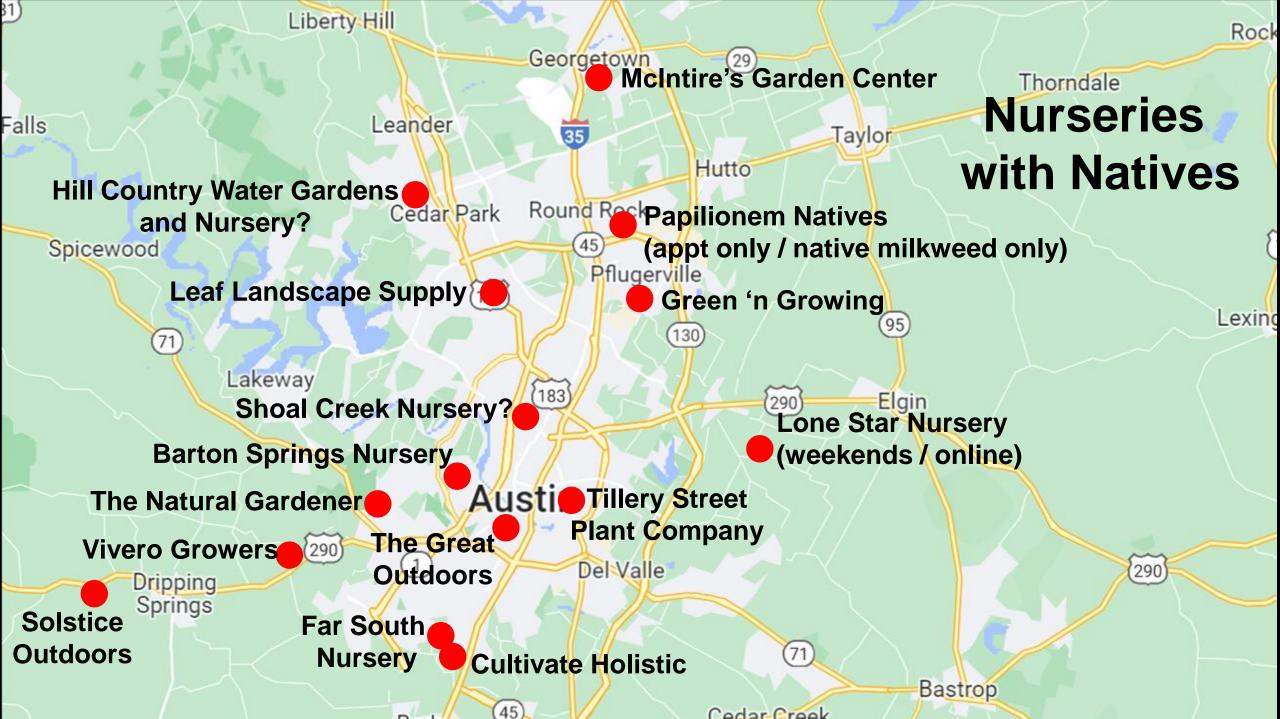
Native Landscaping Resources: Online

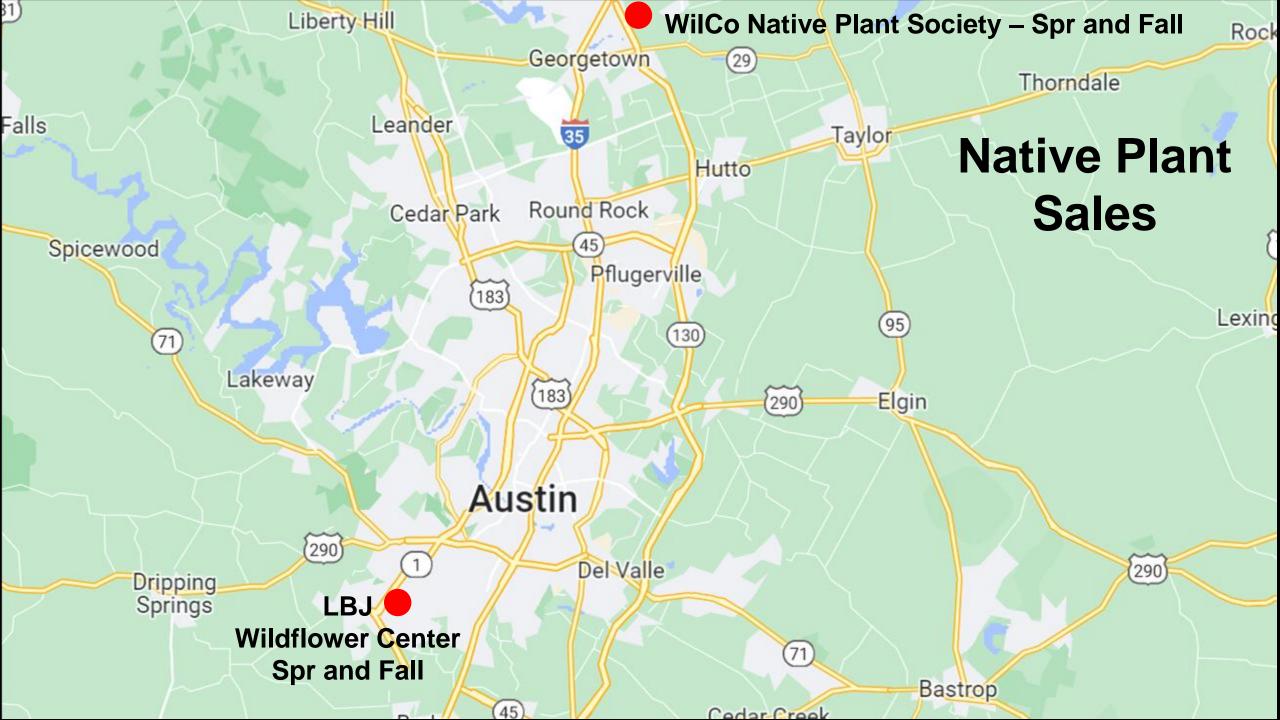
Address - Phone

205 W. 24th Street BIO Labs 401 The University of Texas at Austin Department of Integrative Biology College of Natural Sciences Austin, TX 78712

(512) 232 3521







Native Landscaping Resources: Plant Lists

https://www.wildflower.org/collections/

https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/

Native Landscaping Resources: Certifications

> National Wildlife Federation https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY

Native Plant Society https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/about

Texas Wildscapes

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ wildscape_certification.phtml

Native Landscaping Resources:

Ecoregions of Texas

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/ wildscapes/ecoregions/ecoregion_4.phtml

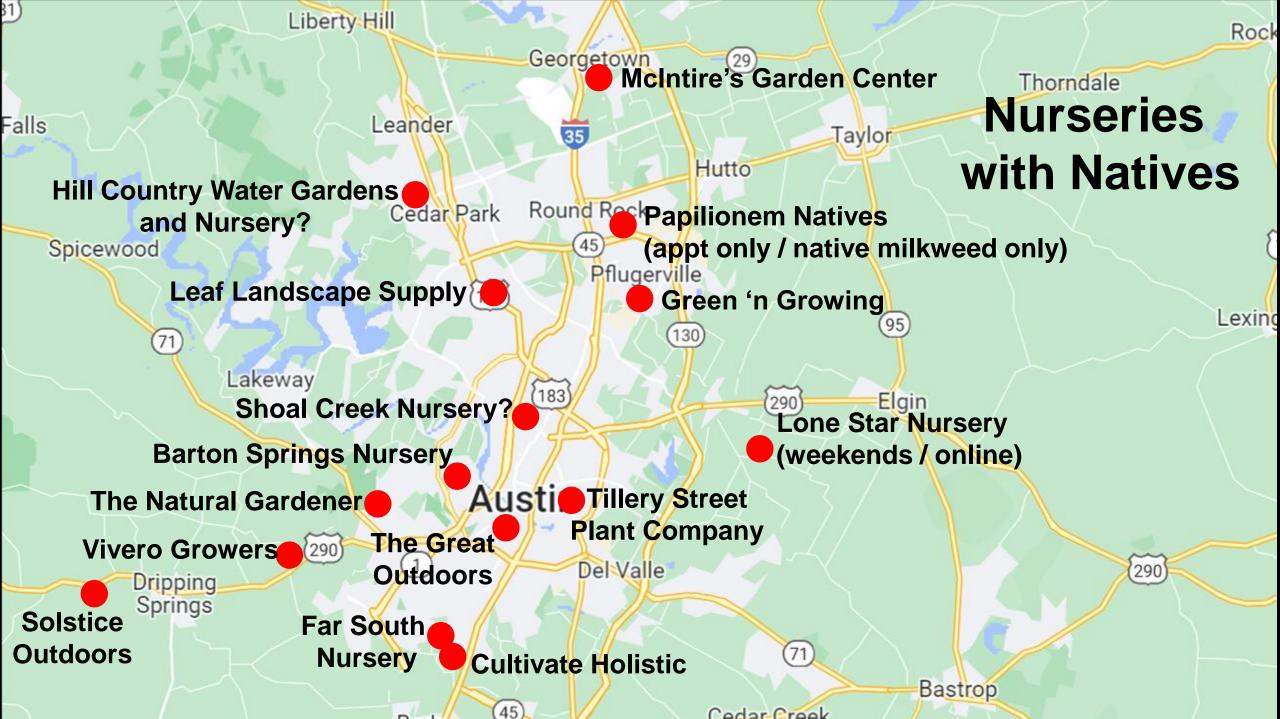
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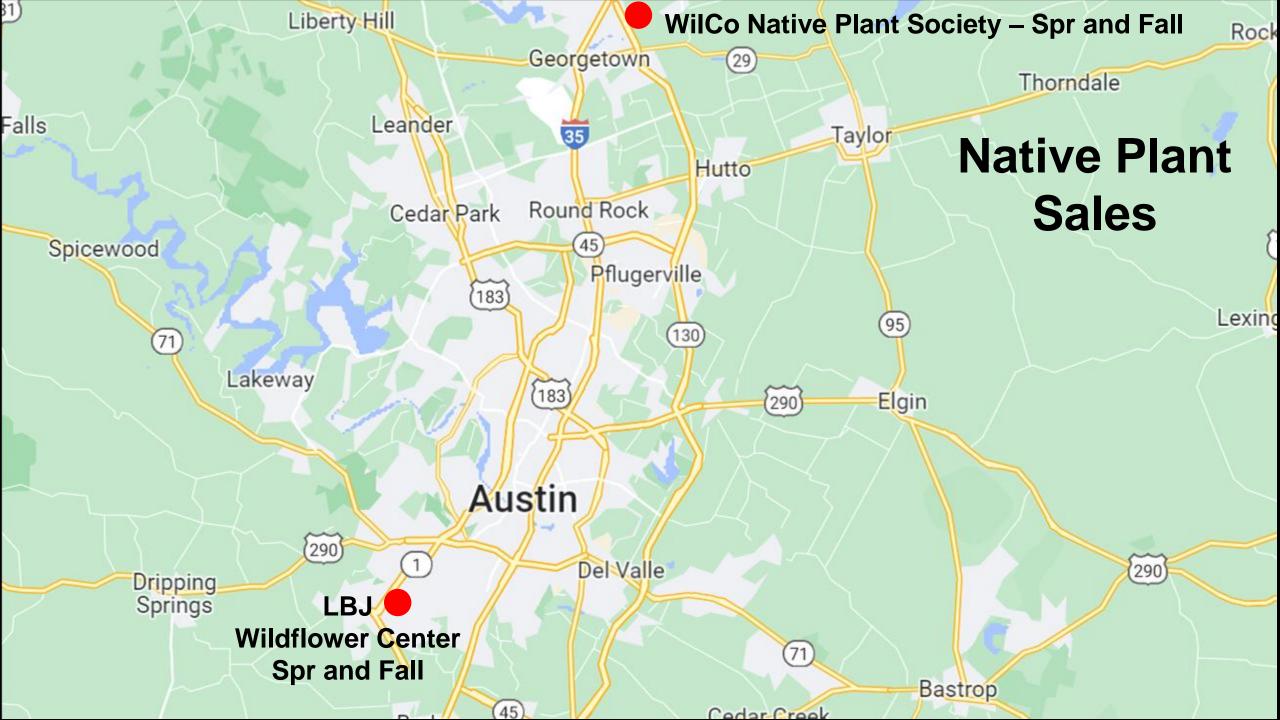
https://www.wildflower.org/collections/

Native Landscaping Resources: Social Media

Facebook Pages / Groups:

- Austin Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas
- Texas Native Plant and Seed Exchange
- Landscaping with Native Texas Plants





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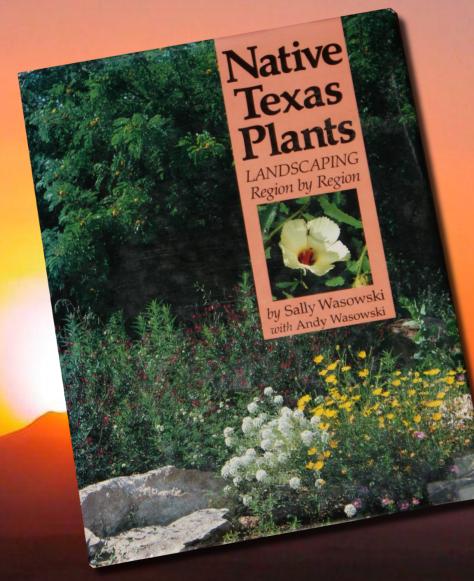
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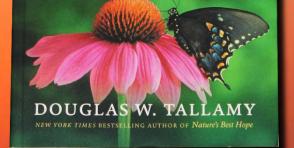
Native Landscaping Resources: Books

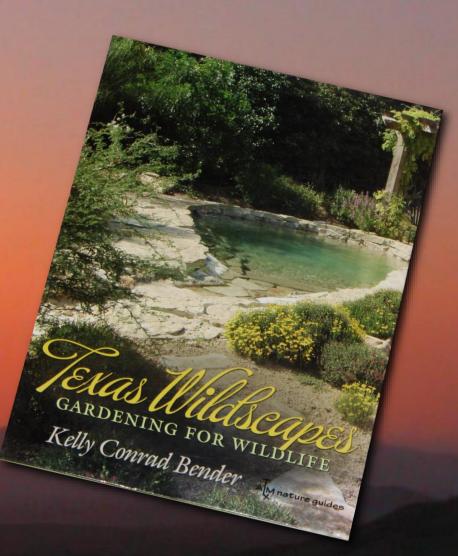


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BRINGING NATURE HOME

How You Can Sustain Wildlife with NATIVE PLANTS





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Dr. Shalene Jha

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Out of 20,000+ bee species that have been described worldwide, approximately 4,000 inhabit North America (Northern Mexico, U.S., Canada) and ~1000 live in Texas. Colonies of the single species of Western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) were brought to the American continent in the 1600's by Europeans who kept apiaries for honey, wax, and mead. Indigenous Americans had harvested honey from several tropical native bee species.

(Native bee, Apis mellifera. Photo: Kathy Keatley Garvey, The University of California Regents).

Beyond honey and wax, bees provide important ecosystem services by pollinating ~87% of wild plants. Bees are key pollinators that visit flowers for nectar and pollen and facilitate pollination by consistently transferring pollen between plants of the same species (floral

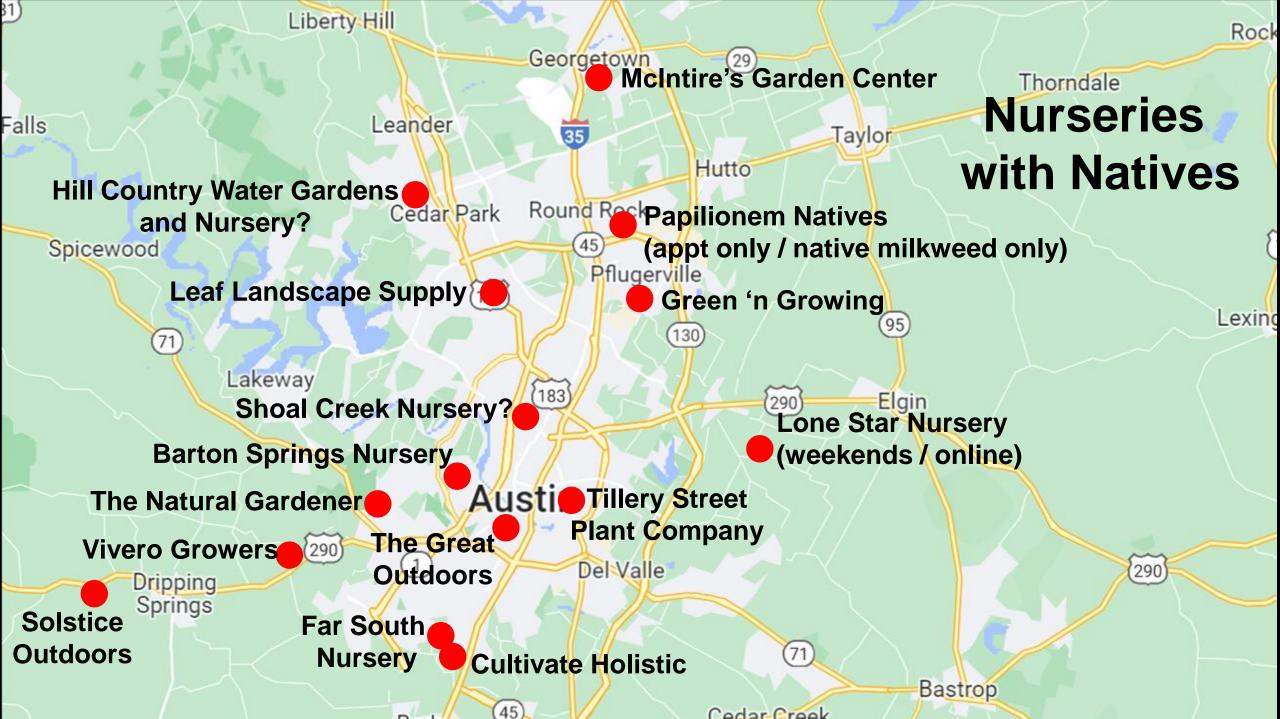
Native Landscaping Resources: Online

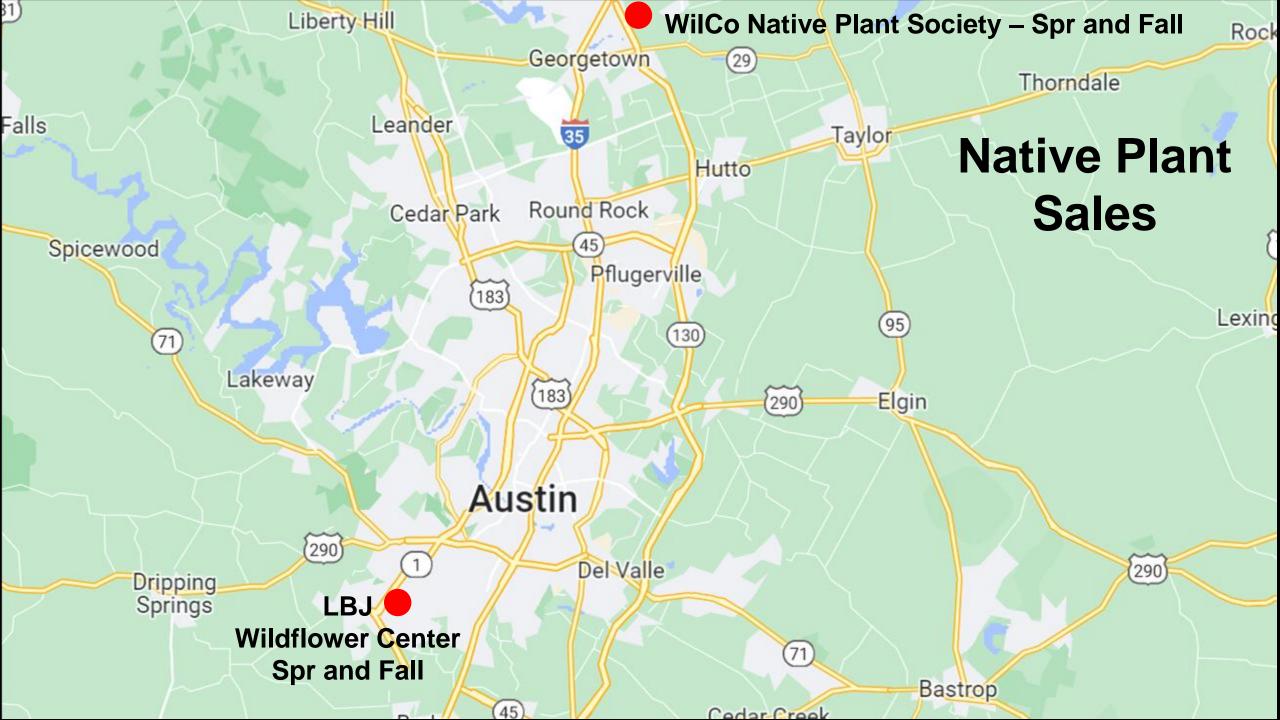
Address - Phone

205 W. 24th Street BIO Labs 401 The University of Texas at Austin Department of Integrative Biology College of Natural Sciences Austin, TX 78712

(512) 232 3521







Native Landscaping Resources: Plant Lists

https://www.wildflower.org/collections/

https://npsot.org/wp/resources/plant-lists-by-ecoregion/

Native Landscaping Resources: Certifications

> National Wildlife Federation https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY

Native Plant Society https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/about

Texas Wildscapes

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/ wildscape_certification.phtml

Native Landscaping Resources:

Ecoregions of Texas

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/ wildscapes/ecoregions/ecoregion_4.phtml

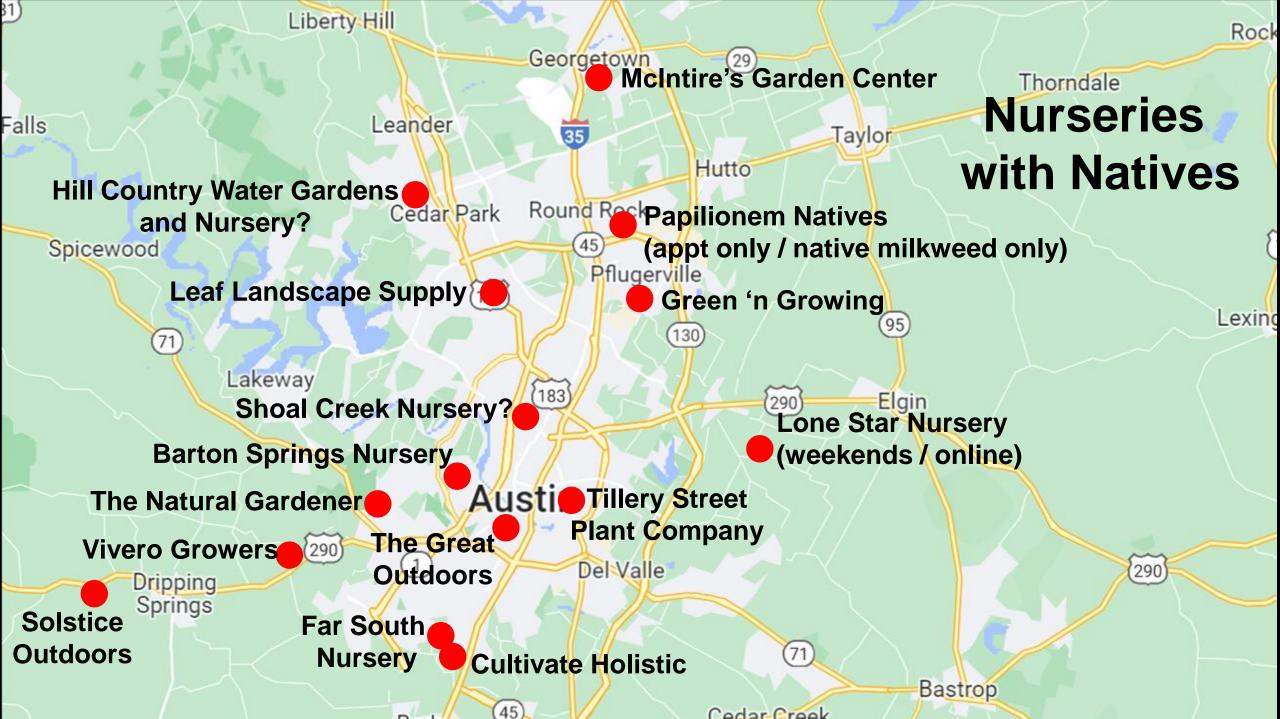
OR...

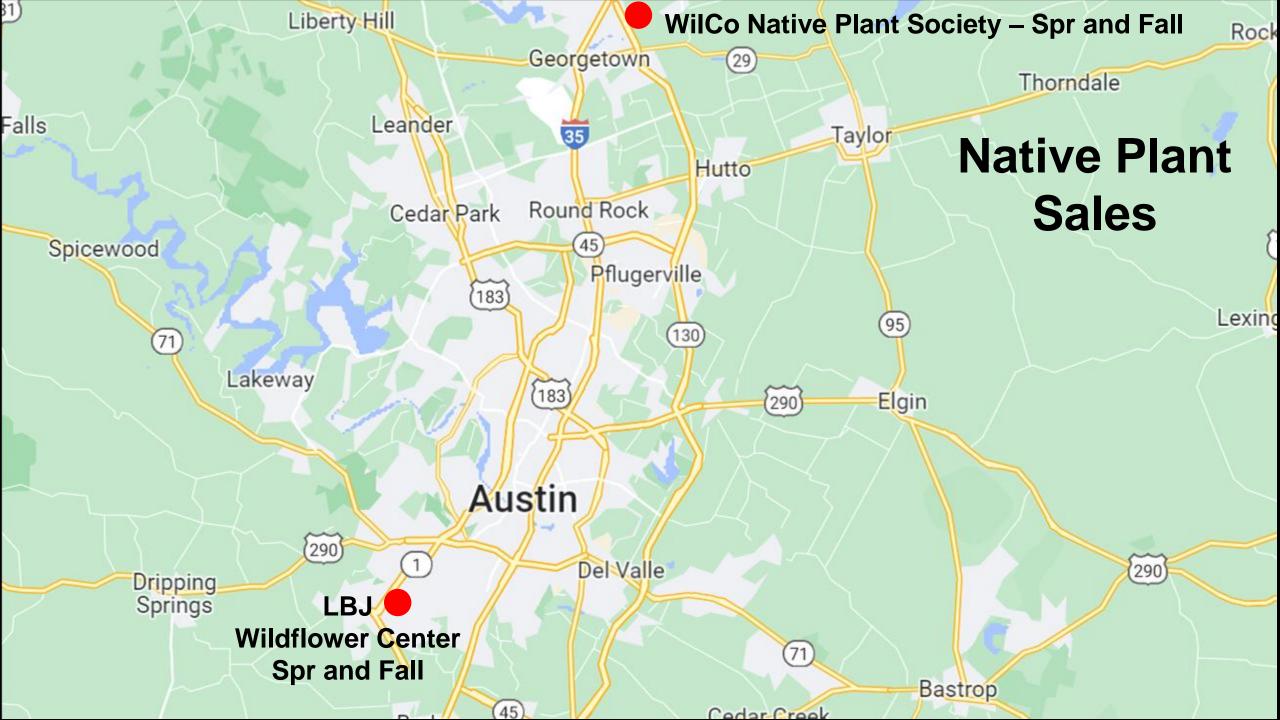
https://www.wildflower.org/collections/

Native Landscaping Resources: Social Media

Facebook Pages / Groups:

- Austin Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas
- Texas Native Plant and Seed Exchange
- Landscaping with Native Texas Plants





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Thank You!

TEXAS WILDSCAPES Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Science, Research and Diversity Program