

Gardens Resources

Site Analysis, Design, and Plant Selection

Grow Green Guide, City of Austin and Texas Cooperative Extension

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/>

A comprehensive, easy-to-use guide for local conditions. The Grow Green Guide was developed to help gardeners in the Austin area plan and maintain home gardens and landscapes, with the goal of conserving water resources as well. It includes an illustrated plant guide for recommended native and adapted plants and advice on topics such as landscape design, lawn care, beneficial insects, fertilizer recommendations, plant diseases, and watering techniques. A print version is available; the online version is searchable, and links to expert advice are included.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, Texas

www.wildflower.org

A native plant botanical garden that demonstrates the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants. The gardens demonstrate the use of native plants in landscapes and how to incorporate rainwater harvesting in garden design. The website includes a database with information on 5200 species of North American natives, articles on propagation of popular Texas wildflower species, and how-to advice on planting specific types of gardens, e.g., wildflower meadows, water gardens, and butterfly gardens.

Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series, University of Minnesota

<http://www.sustland.umn.edu/index.html>

Includes articles on design, plant selection, implementation, and maintenance of sustainable gardens.

Wasowski, Sally with Andy Wasowski. ***Native Texas Plants: Landscaping Region by Region***. 2nd ed. Houston: Gulf Publishing, 1997.

An essential resource for Texas gardeners. The authors present sample gardens for the different regions of Texas. Native plants are listed in groups such as perennials or vines, with color photographs, characteristics, and planting advice for each species.

Wasowski, Sally and Andy Wasowski. ***Native Texas Gardens: Maximum Beauty, Minimum Upkeep***. Houston: Gulf Publishing, 1997.

Case studies of various kinds of Texas gardens, including country home gardens and suburban gardens.

Ajilvsgi, Geyata. ***Butterfly Gardening for the South: Cultivating Plants that Attract Butterflies***. Dallas: Taylor Pub. Co., 1990.

Nokes, Jill. ***How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest***.

Revised ed. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001.

Damude, Noreen and Kelly Conrad Bender. ***Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife***. Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife, 1999.

The authors offer advice for designing gardens to attract wildlife such as hummingbirds, butterflies, amphibians, and mammals. Includes a chapter on dealing with deer and information on how to get your garden certified as a Texas Wildscape Backyard Habitat.

Soil and Mulch

Texas A&M University

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

This page on the Texas A&M turfgrass management website gives directions and illustrations on how to collect soil samples and submit them for analysis.

Texas Plant & Soil Lab

<http://www.txplant-soillab.com/>

Offers comprehensive soil testing for farmers, ranchers, homeowners, and large commercial operations such as golf courses.

J-V DIRT + LOAM

3600 FM 973 North

Austin, TX 78725

<http://www.jvdirty.com/>

A commercial source for soil and mulch.

Geo Growers

6.3 miles west of the "Y" in Oak Hill, on the north side of U.S. 290.

<http://www.geogrowersinc.com/>

A commercial source for soil and mulch.

Ogdon, Scott. ***Gardening Success with Difficult Soils: Limestone, Alkaline Clay, and Caliche.*** Dallas: Taylor Pub. Co., 1992.

Addresses the challenge of gardening in Texas soils.

Shopping for Plants

These are just a few of the dozens of sources of native plants in Central Texas.

Barton Springs Nursery (512-328-6655)

3601 Bee Caves Rd.

Austin, TX 78746

The Great Outdoors (512-448-2992)

<http://gonursery.com/>

2730 South Congress

Austin, Texas 78704

It's about Thyme (512-280-1192)

<http://www.itsaboutthyme.com/>

11726 Manchaca Road

Austin, Texas 78748

John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener (512-288-6113)

<http://naturalgardeneraustin.com/>

8648 Old Bee Caves Road

Austin, Texas 78735

Native American Seed (1-800-728-4043)

<http://www.seedsources.com/>

Junction, Texas

Native Texas Butterfly Gardens (512-263-1804)

3801 Hwy 71 West (in the A-Z Rental complex, just east of the ballfields)

Bee Cave, TX 78738

Park Place Gardens (512-458-5909)

2710 Hancock Drive (between Mopac & Shoal Creek)

Austin, TX 78746

Wild-Connections (512-301-5553)

<http://www.wild-connections.com/>

10802 Kit Carson Drive

Austin, TX 78737

AustinPlantCycle

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinplantcycle/>

A source for free plants.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Semi-annual Plant Sale (Spring and Fall)

http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=plant_sale

4801 La Crosse Avenue

Austin, Texas 78739

Watering

Evapo-Transpiration (ET)

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/et.htm>

ET, or evapo-transpiration, is the measurement of moisture that your plants and lawn lose through heat, humidity, and wind. This amount is what should be replaced when watering your landscape. This City of Austin site tells you how to calculate the amount of time your sprinklers should run for your lawn to receive the correct ET amount.

Texas Water Resources Education

<http://texaswater.tamu.edu/conservation.rainwater.html>

Includes information on home water audits and links to speaker presentations, conferences, and other websites.

“Efficient Use of Water in the Landscape and Garden”

Landscape Water Conservation, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M

<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/greenhouse/hortgardens/conservation/lwcefficient.pdf>

This bulletin is packed with information for the home gardener. It includes an explanation of the plant/soil/water cycle, a discussion of water quality, a chart describing soil moisture content, methods of irrigation, and instructions on how to install a drip irrigation system. A highly recommended resource.

Stein, Larry A. “Drip Irrigation: Salvation for the Gardener.” *Horticulture Update*, May 2004. (a publication of the Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas)

<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/may04/Drip.html>

A brief article describing the benefits of drip irrigation and how to use it efficiently for watering landscape plants.

Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting, 3rd ed., July 2005.

http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/RainwaterHarvestingManual_3rdedition.pdf

A link to the new edition of the definitive layman’s guide to rainwater harvesting in Texas. This online version replaces the *Texas Guide to Rainwater Harvesting*, 2nd ed., published in 1997 by the Texas Water Development Board. Contact the Texas Water Development Board for a print version of the manual.

Texas Water Development Board

<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/home/index.asp>

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Austin, TX 78711-3231

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E-Mail: info@twdb.state.tx.us

More information on rainwater harvesting can be found in the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District’s companion piece, *Installing a Rainwater Harvesting System*, or on the website of the Texas Water Development Board.

Care and Maintenance

Aggie Plant Answers

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/web.html>

Answers to many of your gardening questions.

Grow Green Guide

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/resources.htm>

Rates water needs and lists recommendations for maintenance of individual species. Includes an extensive list of resources on a variety of topics (pests, books, pruning, etc.)