



Native Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Vines, and Grasses

When a plant is described as "native" to a certain area, it means that the plant naturally occurs in that region without human introduction. Native trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, and grasses have evolved over time to adapt to the local climate, soil, and ecological conditions, making them well-suited for their environment. These plants play a vital role in supporting local wildlife, including pollinators and other beneficial organisms, and they contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem. By planting native species, gardeners can promote biodiversity, reduce maintenance needs, and enhance the resilience of their landscapes.

Trees:

1. **Blackgum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*): Grows 40-60 feet tall and 25 feet wide. Blackgum trees have great fall color, turning red, and does well in East Texas because it is native. It grows about 1 foot per year, prefers full sun, and is deciduous.
2. **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*): This tree grows around 80 feet tall and 40-50 feet wide. It produces red leaves in the fall. Full sun, deciduous.
3. **Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*): Dogwoods can grow anywhere from 10-30 feet tall and wide, depending on the variety. This tree commonly produces white or pink blooms, prefers part shade, and is deciduous.
4. **Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*): Eastern red cedars can range from 30-60 feet tall and 10-25 feet wide. They prefer full sun, are evergreen, and drought-tolerant once established.
5. **Eastern Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*): There are many types of redbuds, most blooming pink to purple at the beginning of spring. There is a variety that

blooms white buds as well. Pending the variety, determines how much sun it can tolerate, are deciduous, and come in various sizes and leaf colors.

6. **Loblolly Pine** (*Pinus taeda*): A good native tree in East Texas that grows about 98-115 feet tall with a spread of 40 feet and a growth rate of 2 feet per year. Full sun. Evergreen.
7. **Magnolia** (*Magnolia grandiflora*): This large tree can grow up to 60-80 feet tall and 20-40 feet wide with a growth rate of 1-2 feet per year. There are also smaller varieties. Full sun. Evergreen.
8. **Pecan** (*Carya illinoensis*): A large deciduous tree that grows around 66-130 feet tall and 30-50 feet wide. It prefers full sun and is a slow grower, with a lifespan of 300 years.
9. **River Birch** (*Betula nigra*): River birch is a great deciduous shade tree that grows about 60-80 feet tall and 40-60 feet wide with a growth rate of 1.5-2 feet per year. It also loves water, hence the name. Full sun.
10. **Shumard Red Oak** (*Quercus shumardii*): This tree grows around 80 feet tall and 40-50 feet wide, producing red leaves in the fall. Full sun, deciduous.
11. **Willow Oak** (*Quercus phellos*): This shade tree grows around 60-75 feet tall and 25-50 feet wide, with a growth rate of 1-2 feet per year. It prefers full sun and is deciduous.

Shrubs/ Perennials:

1. **American Beautyberry** (*Callicarpa americana*): This shrub grows 5-8 feet tall. It produces small purple berries that feed a wide variety of wildlife. It prefers full sun to part shade and is deciduous.
2. **Azalea** (*Rhododendron spp.*): Azaleas are evergreen, flowering shrubs that are perfect for hedges, borders, or mass plantings. They must have moist, well-drained acidic soil. Standard azaleas bloom once a year, while Encore® Azalea varieties bloom several times a year. The bloom colors vary by variety, as do growing habits. Encore® Azaleas tolerate more sun than standard azaleas, which can only handle morning sun or full shade.

3. **Canna** (*Canna x generalis*): Grows 3-5 feet tall and spreads. It has many colors of blooms and variegation of leaves depending on the variety. Prefers full sun to part shade.
4. **Cherry Laurel** (*Prunus laurocerasus*): Grows to 20 feet tall and 10 feet wide. It is an evergreen shrub that produces deep red berries.
5. **Coral Bean** (*Erythrina herbacea*): Coral beans can grow up to 6-12 feet tall and 3-6 feet wide. They can tolerate full sun or part shade and are deciduous.
6. **Lantana** (*Lantana spp.*): Lantana ranges from 1-5 feet tall and wide. In East Texas, it is considered a hardy annual to perennial. This plant produces many flowers.
7. **Roses** (*Rosa spp.*): Depending on the variety, this plant can grow anywhere from 1.5 feet to 13 feet, with some climbing roses even reaching 20 feet. The most popular varieties include the Knockout® rose (5-6 feet), Drift® rose (2-3 feet), and Peggy Martin climbing rose (6-15 feet).
8. **Texas Sage** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*): Depending on the variety, this shrub can grow 3-10 feet tall and wide. It has silver-green leaves that produce small purple flowers. It is an evergreen that loves full sun but can also thrive in partial shade and is drought-tolerant once established.
9. **Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica cerifera*): This Texas native does well in full sun and prefers wet soil. It grows 10-15 feet tall and 8-10 feet wide and is fast-growing.
10. **Turks Cap** (*Malvaviscus arboreus var. drummondii*) – This native deciduous plant grows about 2-5 feet tall and wide. It can tolerate full sun but prefers shade. It produces bright red, cup-shaped flowers that bloom from summer to fall.

Vines:

1. **Caroline Jessamine** (*Gelsemium sempervirens*): This vine grows 20 feet tall and wide and produces yellow flowers in the spring. It loves full sun and is evergreen.
2. **Coral Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*): Coral honeysuckle grows 10-20 feet tall and wide. It thrives in full sun and is semi-evergreen.

3. **Cross Vine** (*Bignonia capreolata*): Cross vines are fast-growing and can reach up to 50 feet tall and wide on a trellis or fence. They are semi-evergreen and prefer full sun to part shade.
4. **Muscadine Grape** (*Vitis rotundifolia*): Muscadines are produced on vigorous-growing vines that can cover arbors, fences, and trellises. The fruit is high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. They can be eaten fresh, made into wine, dried (raisins), or used in jam and jellies. They prefer full sun and are deciduous.
5. **Trumpet Creeper** (*Campsis radicans*): Trumpet creepers can grow 30-40 feet tall and wide when grown on a trellis. They thrive in full sun to part shade and produce red/orange trumpet-shaped flowers, hence the name.
6. **Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*): This vine grows 30-50 feet tall and wide. It is deciduous and can thrive in full sun, partial shade, and full shade.
7. **Wisteria** (*Wisteria frutescens*): Wisteria can grow 10-30 feet on a trellis, depending on the variety. It features beautiful blue/purple blooms in the spring and is deciduous, thriving in full sun to part shade.

Grasses:

1. **Bushy Bluestem** (*Andropogon glomeratus*): Bushy bluestem grows 2-4 feet tall and wide. It prefers full sun but can also grow in part shade.
2. **Inland Sea Oats** (*Chasmanthium latifolium*): Inland sea oats grow 2-4 feet tall and wide. They prefer partial shade.
3. **Muhly** (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*): Muhly grass grows 3-4 feet tall and wide. It produces pink and white blooms and prefers full sun.
4. **Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum*): Switchgrass typically grows 3 feet tall and wide and loves full sun.