



Native plants are
extremely important
for the ecosystem

Here's why:

WILDLIFE HOTSPOTS

Native plants are great at providing food and shelter for wildlife. Bees and butterflies rely on their nectar for pollination. Birds and mammals depend on the nuts, seeds, and fruits produced.

ADAPTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Native plants naturally evolved with the soil and climate where they are found. This makes them perfectly fit for the weather patterns of their range. Many native species in our area are drought tolerant and can put up a fight against extreme summer heat!

FEWER INPUTS

Native plants conserve water with deep roots that help soil store water. Natives also require little to no fertilizer or pesticides, meaning less water pollution from runoff.

Want to plant
more native
species?

Find Natives
Here:

The Natural Gardener
The Great Outdoors
Shoal Creek Nursery
BartonSprings Nursery

Get in Touch

(512) 854-1690
BCCP@traviscountytexas.gov
@bcp_traviscounty

Volunteer

Natural Resources Field Office
9512 FM 620 N
Austin, TX 78726
<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/bcp/hiking-vol>

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Travis County Natural
Resources

NATIVE
PLANTS IN
YOUR
BACKYARD



How to protect the preserve
and promote pollinators in
your own backyard!



Tips for planting native species

1. BE DIVERSE

Planting a variety of species creates many habitat and food niches for different insects, birds, and mammals.

2. BE CURIOUS

Take sometime to learn the needs of the species planted. Do they need sun or shade? When is the best time to plant?

3. BE PATIENT

It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find them. Before you know it, your yard will be teeming with native insects and birds!

PLANT THIS, NOT THAT

Invasive species, not naturally in the ecosystem, aggressively compete with native plants for vital resources often leading to a decline in native populations. This guide provides native species that are great alternatives for invasives that we are battling in the preserves. Planting natives in your yard helps to extend the ecosystem beyond the preserve!

PLANT THIS

YAUPON HOLLY



CHERRY LAUREL



SOAPBERRY



NOT THAT

HEAVENLY BAMBOO



GLOSSY PRIVET



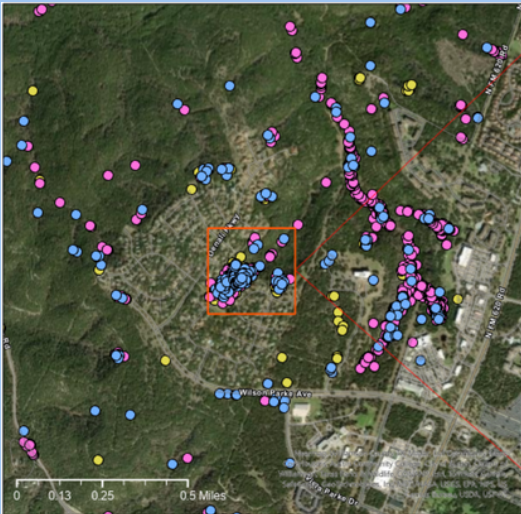
CHINABERRY



Invasive species are harmful to our ecosystems.

CAN SPREAD RAPIDLY

Many invasive species have characteristics that make them both appealing for yards and more likely to invade -- such as large flowers, attractive seeds and fruit, and stable performance. Seeds then spread through waterways and animals to end up in natural areas where they threaten native species.



INFLUENCE ON PRESERVE

Many of the BCP preserves are bordered by residential areas, and when invasives are planted in yards, they can easily spread into the preserve(above). This results in land managers spending lots of time and money to remove the invasives before they can harm the ecosystem.

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Dangers of invasive species

OUTCOMPETE NATIVE PLANTS

Invasive species, not naturally belonging to the ecosystem, aggressively compete with native plants for vital resources like food, sunlight, and habitat. This often leads to a decline in native populations as the invasive species rapidly expands and dominates the area, disrupting the natural balance of the ecosystem.

MONOCULTURES

As they spread, certain invasives can take over and dominate landscapes. These ornamental species do not produce nutritious food for native animals and can't support those communities. Monocultures also increase chances for disease and invite non-native, harmful insects.

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