



Note: Information for landscape tips comes from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Web site. For more information on choosing and caring for Southwest desert and Texas native plants, you can visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Web site at www.wildflower.org.

For more information about the Texas Department of Agriculture's GO TEXAN program, visit www.GOTEXAN.org or call (877) 99GO-TEX.

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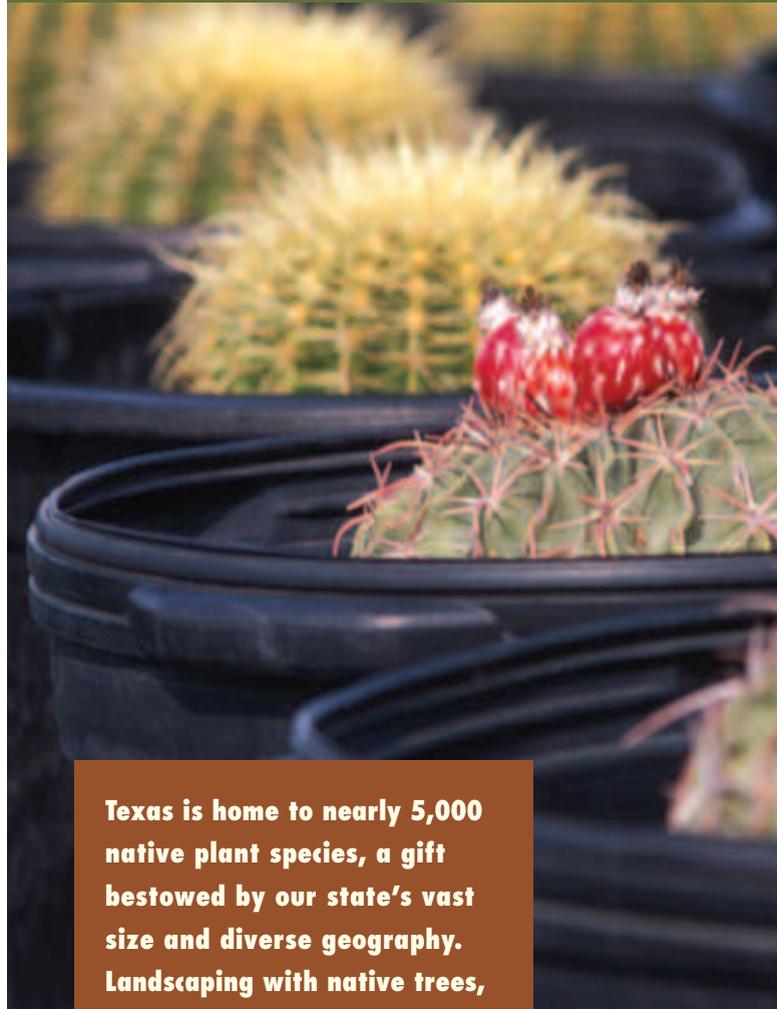


GO TEXAN.



Root for Texas

**With Texas-Grown
Native and Southwest Desert Plants**



Texas is home to nearly 5,000 native plant species, a gift bestowed by our state's vast size and diverse geography. Landscaping with native trees, shrubs, turf, ornamental grasses and Southwest desert plants expresses the Lone Star State's natural beauty and unique identity. Look inside for more details on these versatile plants and tips on using them for landscape success.



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Southwest desert and Texas native plants not only enhance the environment, they stamp it with authenticity. Many native plants are also pest- and disease-tolerant, reducing the need for disease and pest control. They tolerate weather extremes ranging from intense heat and drought to hard freezes. In areas with lower rainfall, cacti, succulents and other hardy Southwest desert plants are also finding favor with landscapers and homeowners who appreciate the breathtaking beauty of the Chihuahuan desert.



With their various shapes, sizes, textures and colors, these plants can add accent and interest to lawns and gardens and provide year-round green color and dazzling seasonal blossoms.

To find Texas-grown native and Southwest desert plants, simply look for the GO TEXAN logo. GO TEXAN is the Texas Department of Agriculture's unified marketing initiative promoting products made and grown in Texas. The logo stamps Texas products with Lone Star pride. When you want the best, GO TEXAN.



Tips for Landscaping Success with Texas Native and Southwest Desert Plants

Selecting a Location

Assess your property's landscape conditions. Is it in full sun or shade, dry or wet? What is the soil type, and is supplemental irrigation necessary? Evaluate how you will use your landscape. Learn about the dominant native plants and associated flora in your area and how they exist in natural areas. Gathering this type of information will help you choose the ideal plants for your site.



Choosing the Right Plant

After selecting a location, you are ready to select the right plant for your landscape. When mixing species, choose plants that naturally grow together in your region. Choose individual plants that have good branching structure and appear healthy. When purchasing cacti and succulents, buy from a licensed supplier to ensure that the plants have been grown in the nursery and not illegally harvested from the wild.

Planting

Dig the hole larger than the root ball of the plant. Position the plant so that the soil line from the pot is level with that of the ground and use the remaining soil to fill the hole. Thoroughly water new plantings.

Maintaining the Landscape

New landscapes will take several years to become well established. The critical period for watering and weeding is several weeks after planting and longer if you are planting during warm and dry periods. Once established, your native landscape will require minimal maintenance. Selective pruning and clipping seed heads and branch tips encourages fullness and longer bloom periods for many perennials.