

# Low-Growing Vegetation List

CenterPoint Energy carefully removes trees and controls the vegetation within its transmission line corridors to provide for a low-growing, predictable environment. **Do not plant anything within a transmission right-of-way** without first seeking approval from the CenterPoint Energy Surveying & Right of Way Department at 713-207-5769.

The following low-growing perennial plants grow to a mature height of 10 feet or less. Some species or varieties of xeric (requiring little water) plants are also included. For questions about low-growing species or varieties, please contact CenterPoint Energy at 713-207-2222 or 1-800-332-7143, and request that a company forester be notified to assist you.

## Earth-Kind® Roses

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Texas A&M University has selected a variety of shrub roses it has designated as Earth-Kind® roses. This designation is based on the results of extensive research and field trials and is awarded only to those roses demonstrating superior pest tolerance, combined with outstanding landscape performance. These roses require no pesticides or fungicides to maintain a healthy appearance, and only limited fertilization will ensure a constant display of flowers from spring through the first heavy frost in the Fall. Earth-Kind® roses also require less watering than most other roses.

Earth-Kind® roses do well in a variety of soil types, ranging from well-drained acid sands to poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays. Once established, these roses also have excellent heat and drought tolerance, but they benefit from a three-inch layer of mulch and supplemental watering during dry periods, especially during the first year after transplanting. Another advantage of Earth-Kind® roses is that they are readily available at most plant nurseries in Texas, and the varieties listed here grow to less than 10 feet. All photographs and many of the descriptions contained in this section of the plant list are taken from the website, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/roses/cultivars/>, of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and used with their permission.

## Dwarf Shrub Roses:

### ‘Marie Daly’ Rose:

This fragrant, semi-double Polyantha rose with light pink blooms (fading to almost white in intense heat) has very few thorns. It needs full sun and good air circulation and well-drained soil to do its best. ‘Marie Daly’ is an excellent choice for a low hedge or a formal mass planting bed and it can also be grown in individual containers.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Marie Daly’	3’	3’	5’	Low-Moderate; tolerates salt	Spring-Fall	Needs full sun; hedges or formal beds

### ‘Souvenir de St. Anne’s’ Rose:

This Bourbon rose is rated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service as the most fragrant of all the Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> roses. It should be planted in full sun and have good air circulation. This variety is not recommended for areas having an elevated salt content in the water.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Souvenir de St. Anne’s’	3’	3’	5’	Low-Moderate; does not tolerate salt	Spring-Fall	One of the most fragrant varieties

### **‘The Fairy’ Rose:**

This Polyantha rose has blooms that are medium to light pink blooms and fully double, relatively small in size, but they have little or no fragrance. It does well in a variety of temperatures and can be grown in all parts of Texas. ‘The Fairy’ should be grown in full sun. This rose is a good candidate for hedges as well as mass bed plantings and can also be grown as a container plant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘The Fairy’	3’	4’	6’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	A great hedge rose; full sun; no fragrance

### **Small Shrub Roses:**

#### **‘Cecile Brunner’ Rose:**

Texas AgriLife Extension Service calls ‘Cecile Brunner’ one of the easiest to grow rose varieties. This Polyantha rose is sometimes called ‘Mme. Cécile Brunner’ and may also be called The Sweetheart Rose. It is of French ancestry and has numerous double light pink blooms with darker pink centers.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Cecile Brunner’	4’	3’	5’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Sweet fragrance

**‘Caldwell Pink’ Rose:**

This is a “found” rose of unknown origin introduced by Dr. Bill Welch of Texas A&M University in the 1980s. It is sometimes called the Summer Carnation Rose due to the form of its flowers, which are described as lilac pink but can fade to almost white under high heat conditions. ‘Caldwell Pink’ has no fragrance, but it is extremely carefree and makes an excellent back border for beds. It can also be planted as a hedge and as a container plant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Caldwell Pink’	4’	4’	6’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Good along back borders or as a hedge; no fragrance

**‘Perle d’Or’ Rose:**

This French rose dating from the 1880s is sometimes called “Yellow Cecile Brunner”. The blooms begin as an apricot-colored bud, and then open to a golden buff pink. Plants need good air circulation and they should be in full sun. Texas AgriLife Extension Service named ‘Perle d’Or’ its Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> Rose of the Year in 2007.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Perle d’Or’	4’	4’	6’	Low; does not tolerate salt or overwatering	Spring-Fall	Very fragrant; can be grown in clay soils if given good drainage

## Medium Shrub Roses:

### ‘La Marne’ Rose:

This Polyantha rose was developed in 1915 in France. Individual bushes have only a few thorns. The semi-double blooms are made up of a pink and white combination of loosely cupped and ruffled petals. Full sun and a well-drained soil are needed.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘La Marne’	5’	4’	6’	Low-Moderate; does not tolerate salt	Spring-Fall	One of the best medium-sized hedge roses; light fragrance

### ‘Spice’ Rose:

This fully double China rose cultivar has blooms ranging from blush pink to white in color, the color fading in hot weather. Its origins are unclear, but some believe it to be Hume’s Blush Tea-Scented China rose dating from 1810. It has been used to produce many of the popular varieties of roses in existence today. ‘Spice’ should be planted in full sun and in an area where it will get good air circulation for optimum performance.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Spice’	5’	4’	6’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Peppery spice fragrance; good starter rose for beds or containers

**‘Belinda’s Dream’ Rose:**

This cultivar was developed in 1992 by a Texas A&M mathematics professor specifically to withstand the high summer temperatures we experience. ‘Belinda’s Dream’ was the first of the Earth-Kind® roses and continues to be the favorite of many people. The 4-inch medium pink blooms are very full, having over 100 petals per bloom. In addition to mass plantings, this rose makes an excellent specimen plant and can be easily grown in a large container.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Belinda’s Dream’	5’	5’	7’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Mildly fragrant

**‘Carefree Beauty’ Rose:**

This cultivar was developed at Iowa State University to withstand the long, cold winters of the Midwest. It has proven to be just as hardy in Texas and was recognized as the 2006 Earth-Kind® Rose by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Individual blooms are semi-double, are deep pink in color, and are moderately fragrant. An added attraction is that large orange rose hips are produced by almost every flower, which provides color during the winter when the flowers are dormant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Carefree Beauty’	5’	5’	7’	Low-Moderate; salt tolerated if drip irrigation used	Spring-Fall	Formerly called ‘Katy Road Pink’; moderate fragrance

### **‘Else Poulsen’ Rose:**

This Floribunda semi-double rose was developed in 1924 by a Danish rose breeder named S. Poulsen. It is a relatively large shrub rose, and it has large clusters of upright blooms that have been described as looking like a giant Cyclamen pot plant. Blooms are light pink with a slightly darker pink on the reverse side. Its large size makes ‘Else Poulsen’ a good choice for placing at the back of a bed, where it provides a colorful backdrop for the shorter plants in front of it. This rose needs full sun.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Else Poulsen’	5’	5’	7’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	No fragrance; needs good air circulation; tolerates poor soils

### **‘Ducher’ Rose:**

‘Ducher’ is a China shrub rose developed in the 1860s by the Ducher family of France. It has double ivory-white blooms. The new leaves have a bronze coloration, gradually lightening to light green. Individual plants have a rounded appearance and they make excellent container-grown specimen plants.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Ducher’	6’	4’	6’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Fruity fragrance; needs good air circulation

**‘Duchesse de Brabant’ Rose:**

This Tea rose was developed in 1857 in France and was often worn in the lapel of his suits by President Theodore Roosevelt. The blooms are described as cupped, rose pink in color, and fully double in form. It is an excellent bedding plant, as a specimen or in mass plantings, and also makes a good large container specimen plant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Duchess de Brabant’	6’	4’	6’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Strong tea fragrance; needs full sun and good air circulation

**‘Georgetown Tea’ Rose:**

This relatively large Tea rose was discovered in the yard of a daycare center in Georgetown, Texas by Texas A&M professor of horticulture Dr. Bill Welch. The double blooms have a tea-like fragrance, are salmon pink in the center fading to lilac pink at the edges, and have an unusual pointed appearance due to rolling of each petal at its tip. This rose can be used in mass plantings or as a specimen plant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Georgetown Tea’	6’	6’	8’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Tea fragrance; needs good air circulation



**‘Knock Out’ Rose:**

Introduced in 2000, the single, cherry red petals and carefree nature have made it one of the most widely-used varieties of roses in landscape plantings. Since it was named the All American Rose Selection in 2000, breeders have developed several other colors and bloom types of ‘Knock Out’ rose, including semi-double and double varieties in light pink, a combination of light pink and yellow, and a pure yellow variety. They do equally well in full sun or part sun. Rose hips are produced in the fall and provide winter color. This rose has been known to bloom non-stop during mild winters, and the new reddish-bronze foliage gradually becomes a medium green color.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Knock Out’	6’	6’	8’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Non-fragrant in its pink and red colors, but mildly fragrant yellow color blooms

**‘Mme. Antoine Mari’ Rose:**

This Tea rose cultivar, named 2008 Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> Rose of the Year by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, was developed in France in 1901. New leaves are a deep maroon color, becoming a medium green color at maturity. The blooms have the typical downturned petals of a Tea rose. The petals are a dark pink at the base and become light pink at the tips.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Miscellaneous
‘Mme. Antoine Mari’	6’	6’	8’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Tea fragrance; needs good air circulation

### **‘Mutabilis’ Rose:**

This China rose cultivar is a single blossom variety developed in 1894. ‘Mutabilis’ is a shrub rose that “mutates” through three distinct color phases, each blossom starting out yellow, gradually darkening to pink, and finally becoming crimson. Texas AgriLife Extension Service named ‘Mutabilis’ its 2005 Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> Rose of the Year for its disease resistance and high tolerance for hot, humid summer weather.



<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Spacing</b>	<b>Water Requirements</b>	<b>Flowering Season(s)</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
‘Mutabilis’	6’	6’	8’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Non-fragrant; also known as the Butterfly Rose

## Texas Superstar® Perennial Plants

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Texas A&M University has selected a variety of plants that will reliably return year after year (perennials), have been found in field trials to be tough enough to withstand the high heat and humidity of Texas summers, and are also disease and pest resistant. CenterPoint Energy has selected the following plant species/ varieties from among the Texas Superstar® plants to include on this list because of their hardiness under low water conditions. All photographs and descriptions of Texas Superstar® plants are taken from the website of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, <http://texassuperstar.com/plants/index.html>, and used with their permission.

### ‘Katie’ Dwarf Mexican Petunia:

‘Katie’, which is a variety of the species *Ruellia brittoniana*, is a rugged, drought-resistant ground cover plant that is covered by violet, light purple, pink, and even white flowers that last only one day. The next day, they are completely replaced by a new set of flowers. It produces seeds freely and will quickly cover the ground in either full sun or part shade. The leaves are grass-like, being broader at the base and pointed at the tip ends.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Katie’ Dwarf Mexican Petunia	8-12”	12”	12-18”	Low	Spring-Fall	Short Ground Cover

**‘Blue Princess’ Verbena:**

This hybrid variety of *Verbena* sp. is covered with lavender blue clusters of flowers. This easy-care plant attracts butterflies but resists diseases which attack plants under stress from summer heat, such as powdery mildew. Deer also tend to avoid it as a food source. Plants should be sheared to remove spent blooms at the end of each blooming cycle, which will result in more blooms being produced.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Blue Princess’ Verbena	12”	3’	3’	Low	Spring-Fall	Short Ground Cover

**‘Mystic Blue Spires’ Salvia:**

This is a hybrid variety of sage, created by crossing *Salvia farinacea* with *Salvia longispicata*, another popular salvia species sold under the cultivar name of ‘Indigo Spires’. ‘Mystic Blue Spires’ is more compact and produces flowers over a longer period of time, even during hot, dry periods in the summer. This variety is carefree if planted in a well-drained soil. It should not be fertilized heavily and will produce fewer flowers if it receives too much water. Deer and other pests will not bother it. After new growth starts in the spring, the plants can be cut to just above ground level, which will encourage new, compact growth.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Mystic Blue Spires’ Salvia	18-30”	12-18”	12-18”	Low	Spring- Summer	Medium Bedding Plant

**‘Henry Duelberg’ Salvia:**

*Salvia farinacea* ‘Henry Duelberg’ is a cultivar of this Texas native sage species that was discovered growing in a cemetery in central Texas. It has bluer flowers, and more of them, than other cultivars of this species. The leaves are also a deeper green in color than other varieties. ‘Henry Duelberg’ salvia blooms in full sun during the hot summer season. Deer will eat it only as a last resort, making it a valuable landscape plant for areas unprotected by fencing.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Henry Duelberg’ Salvia	3’	3’	4-5’	Low	Spring-Fall	Tall Bedding Plant

**‘New Gold’ Lantana:**

This hybrid variety of *Lantana* is drought tolerant once established and is also deer resistant. ‘New Gold’ is an excellent candidate for a tall ground cover in areas receiving full sun. The golden yellow flowers produce few, if any, fruit and grow best under summer heat conditions that most other flowering plants do not tolerate.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘New Gold’ Lantana	2-4’	4’	5-6’	Low	Spring-Fall	Tall Ground Cover

**‘John Fanick’ Perennial or Garden Phlox:**

*Phlox paniculata* ‘John Fanick’ is a summer-blooming hardy variety of phlox that tolerates heat, drought, and powdery mildew. The showy clusters of light pink flowers with darker pink throats contrast with the dark green leaves. This plant exhibits a compact growth habit, and prefers full sun.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘John Fanick’ Garden Phlox	3’	2’	3’	Low-Moderate	Late Spring-Fall	Tall Bedding Plant

**‘Victoria’ Perennial or Garden Phlox:**

*Phlox paniculata* ‘Victoria’ is another summer-blooming hardy variety of phlox that tolerates heat, drought, and powdery mildew. It has a more open growth habit than ‘John Fanick’ and the flowers are magenta. The leaves are a lighter green than ‘John Fanick’.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Victoria’ Garden Phlox	3’	2’	3’	Low-Moderate	Late Spring-Fall	Tall Bedding Plant

**Firebush:**

*Hamelia patens* is a small shrub, sometimes called hummingbird bush. It is very heat tolerant and pest resistant, and attracts hummingbirds with its abundant, tubular red-orange flowers. It may be planted in well-drained soil in the ground or in containers. Although Firebush may suffer freeze damage, it is root-hardy in Zone 8 and southward.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Firebush, <i>Hamelia patens</i>	3'	3'	5-6'	Low	Summer-Fall	Small Shrub

**'Imperial Blue' Cape Plumbago:**

*Plumbago auriculata*, a native of South Africa, has an unusual sky-blue color not found in many other plants. The variety 'Imperial Blue' grows well in the hot Texas summers and will continue to bloom until the first frost. It is considered to be a tender perennial, which means it will likely suffer damage during a prolonged sub-freezing period unless it is covered and mulched heavily. Removal of spent flowers will encourage more blooms, and some pruning to maintain a compact shape will be required.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
'Imperial Blue' Cape Plumbago	3-4'	5'	6-8'	Low-Moderate	Summer-Fall	Small Shrub

**Thryallis:**

Thyrallis or Showers-of-Gold, *Galphimia glauca*, is a woody shrub with bright yellow, upright blooms that stand above the evergreen leaves and dark stems. It must have well-drained soil and full sun or light shade, whether planted directly in the ground or in containers. Showers-of-Gold Thryallis benefits from periodic pruning to maintain a denser growth habit.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Thyrallis or Showers-of-Gold	3-5'	5'	5-6'	Low	Late Spring-Fall	Shrub or Hedge

**'Gold Star' Esparanza or Yellow Bells:**

*Tecoma stans* 'Gold Star' is a Texas native shrub that is both heat tolerant and pest resistant, with golden yellow trumpet-shaped flowers and attractive dark green leaves. 'Gold Star' does best when grown in full sun, and it can be planted in the ground or grown in containers.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
'Gold Star' Esparanza or Yellow Bells	4'	3'	6'	Low-Moderate	Late Spring-Fall	Shrub



**Grandma’s Yellow Rose:**

*Rosa* ‘Nacogdoches’, or Grandma’s Yellow Rose, is a floribunda type shrub rose with flowers having a rich yellow color, a light, spicy fragrance, and repeat blooms from spring until frost. It needs at least 6 hours of direct sun per day and prefers a slightly acid soil, but it will tolerate alkaline clay soil that has good drainage. The leaves are a bronze color when they first appear but change to a dark green color when mature. During extremely wet conditions, the leaves may be attacked by black spot fungus and benefit from a fungicide treatment. If black spot does cause some leaves to drop, they will be replaced by new ones shortly and the plant will recover nicely.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Grandma’s Yellow Rose, <i>Rosa</i> ‘Nacogdoches’	4-5’	3’	6’	Low-Moderate	Spring-Fall	Shrub or Hedge

**‘Flare’ Rose Mallow Hibiscus:**

Once established, this refined *Hibiscus moscheutos* hybrid variety requires only moderate amounts of water to produce beautiful fuchsia-colored blooms from summer to frost. ‘Flare’ prefers to be planted where it will receive full sun most of the day, and alkaline soils are tolerated well.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Flare’ Rose Mallow Hibiscus	4’	4’	7’	Low; tolerates alkaline soil	Summer-early Fall	Shrub

**‘Lord Baltimore’ Rose Mallow Hibiscus:**

This hybrid hardy *Hibiscus* sp. variety prefers neutral to slightly acid soil. When planted in full sun, it will produce beautiful red flowers during a long blooming period from summer to frost. The petals on ‘Lord Baltimore’ are slightly ruffled and the leaf margins are lobed.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Lord Baltimore’ Rose Mallow Hibiscus	5’	5’	8’	Low	Summer-early Fall	Shrub

**‘Moy Grande’ Texas Giant Hibiscus:**

Texas AgriLife Extension Service states that ‘Moy Grande’ may have the largest bloom of any hibiscus on earth, the pink blooms reaching the size of a dinner plate. During the blooming season, summer through frost, seed pods should be removed after the flowers fall off to encourage further blooming because ‘Moy Grande’ is not a sterile hybrid like ‘Flare’ and ‘Lord Baltimore.’



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Moy Grande’ Giant Texas Hibiscus	5’	5’	8’	Low; tolerates neutral to alkaline soils	Summer-early Fall	Shrub

**‘Lowery’s Legacy’ Cenizo or Texas Sage:**

*Leucophyllum langmaniae* ‘Lowery’s Legacy’ has a more gray-green color than ‘Green Cloud’ Texas Sage, its flowers are a true lavender color, and it requires the same well-drained soils and full sunlight to do its best. This variety is not as dependent on changes in humidity levels for blooming and it blooms more often during a growing season. ‘Lowery’s Legacy’ has a rounded growth form and tends to have a denser blooming habit than other varieties of Texas Sage.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Lowery’s Legacy’ Texas Sage	5’	5’	7-8’	Low; requires good drainage	Late Spring-Fall	Shrub or Hedge

**‘Green Cloud’ Texas Sage:**

*Leucophyllum frutescens* ‘Green Cloud’ is a cultivar with green leaves that are larger in size than the silver or grey-green varieties of Texas Sage. It should be pruned heavily in late winter-early spring to encourage compact growth and more blooms. In mild winters, most of the leaves will remain on the plant, but there can be substantial leaf drop after a very heavy frost. ‘Green Cloud’ may be used as a specimen plant or as a tall hedge row plant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Green Cloud’ Texas Sage	5-6’	5’	7-8’	Low; requires good drainage	Late Spring-Fall	Shrub or Hedge

## Ornamental Grasses

Many species and varieties of ornamental grasses, both natives and Texas-adapted non-natives, are available at local nurseries and over the Internet. They range in height from just a few inches to well over 10 feet, but the species and varieties listed here grow to less than 10 feet. Ornamental grasses are listed according to their published maximum heights of the leaves, starting with the shortest and proceeding to the tallest. The flowers or inflorescence may extend above the leaves, often as tall as the leaves themselves.

### ‘Little Bunny’ Fountain Grass:

*Pennisetum alopecuroides* ‘Little Bunny’ is one of the smallest ornamental grasses, making it ideal for planting in the foreground of a planting bed. It is adaptable to a wide range of soil types and moisture regimes, but soggy conditions should be avoided. The growth form is upright and it should be grown in full sun to partial shade. The leaves are green and the flower heads are white to whitish green.

Entire Plant:



Single Inflorescence:



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Little Bunny’ Fountain Grass	8–10”	12-24”	3’	Low; requires good drainage	Summer-Fall	Clumping, upright

**Blue Oat Grass:**

*Helictotrichon sempervirens*, Blue Oat Grass, is a better choice for planting in the Houston area than Blue Fescue Grass, another ornamental grass offered for sale by online nurseries. Blue Fescue does not hold up to the heat and humidity combination we experience. Blue Oat Grass foliage is described by many as being “metallic blue” in color. This grass likes full sun and dry to moderately moist, well drained soil. The greenish flowers appear in early summer, mature to a golden wheat color in the fall, and extend about two feet above the leaves.

Planted as Specimen Plant:



Closeup of Inflorescence:



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Blue Oats Grass	12-18”	20-24”	3-4’	Low-moderate; requires good drainage	Summer-Fall	Clumping, upright in center, arching outer leaves

***Nassella tenuissima*:**

Mexican Feather Grass is a relatively short ornamental grass with narrow leaves that arch gracefully and move with the slightest breeze. It is very drought tolerant once it is well established, requiring only minimal supplemental watering. The inconspicuous white flowers, which appear in late Summer through Fall, are only slightly longer than the leaves. This grass looks great in mass plantings or as a specimen plant. It turns a pleasing tan color in Winter.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Mexican Feather Grass	12-24”	12-24”	3’	Low-moderate; good drainage required	Summer-Fall	Clumping, leaves arching

**Dwarf Fountain Grass ‘Hameln’:**

*Pennisetum alopecuroides* ‘Hameln’ is a relatively short fountain grass, reaching a maximum height of 1-2 feet. It needs full sun. The bright green narrow leaves arch gracefully. The flowers are white with a rose-copper tint and resemble bottle brushes. This grass is great for planting along the edges of borders or paths and even along steep banks.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Hameln’ Dwarf Fountain Grass	12-24”	18”	2-3’	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Summer-Fall	Clumping, arching

**Variegated Feather Reed Grass ‘Overdam’:**

*Calamagrostis acutiflora* ‘Overdam’ is a mid-sized ornamental grass with white and green variegated leaves that are moderately wide. Unlike many other ornamental grasses, ‘Overdam’ does well in heavy clay soils as well as in other soil types. ‘Overdam’ prefers moist, but not soggy, well-drained soil. The flower color is described as pinkish green, and in the fall and winter the leaves turn a pleasing tan color.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Overdam’ Variegated Feather Reed Grass	12-24”	18”	2-3’	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Summer-Fall	Clumping, upright in center, arching outer leaves

**Little Bluestem:**

*Schizachryrium scoparium*, commonly known as Little Bluestem but sometimes called Sagegrass or Beardgrass, is a native North American prairie grass which will tolerate poor soils and partial sun. It has a pleasing bluish green color, turning to rusty orange in the fall and winter. Flower stems are reddish in color, turning to tan after a frost. The flowers are white. This grass looks best in mass plantings and provides a natural food source for many native birds.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Little Bluestem	3-4'	2-2.5'	3'	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Summer	Clumping, upright

**Gulf or Pink Muhly Grass:**

*Muhlenbergia capillaris*, commonly known as Gulf Muhly or Pink Muhly Grass, is a clump-forming grass native to the prairies of the southern United States and Mexico. It tolerates a wide range of soils from sand to marly clay and dry to wet conditions as long as drainage is good. The leaves are narrow, almost wiry. In the early Fall, the inflorescence extends above the leaves and opens to reveal the wispy pink seed heads. When viewed from a distance on an early October morning, especially in bright sunlight, the plants take on the appearance of cotton candy. After the first frost, the seed heads turn a tan color. This grass can be grown as a tall ground cover or can be used as specimen plants if planted singly.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Gulf Muhly Grass	3'	3'	4-5'	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Summer	Clumping, upright in center, arching outer leaves

**‘Karley Rose’ Grass:**

*Pennisetum orientale* ‘Karley Rose’ is one of the fountain grasses with bright green leaves. From early Summer through Fall, a succession of rose-purple flowers appear above the leaves and move freely in the slightest breeze. It is adaptable to a wide range of soil types as long as good drainage is maintained. ‘Karley Rose’ looks great in mass plantings as well as planted individually among other perennials and annuals.

Entire Plant:



Inflorescence:



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Karley Rose’ Grass	3-4’	2-3’	4’	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Summer	Clumping, upright in center, arching outer leaves

***Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Adagio’:**

‘Adagio’ is one of the more compact Maiden Grasses, reaching a height of 3-4 feet and a width of 3-4 feet. It has an arching growth form and the green leaves have a white midrib stripe. The flowers open in late Summer as a pinkish plume held above the leaves, but gradually fade to white by Fall. It does well in a variety of soil types, but likes to have good drainage and does best in full sun. ‘Adagio’ can be used as a specimen plant or planted in mass.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season	Growth Form
‘Adagio’ Maiden Grass	3-4’	3-4	5’	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Summer	Clumping, upright in center, arching outer leaves



**Variegated *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Morning Light’:**

*Miscanthus sinensis* is commonly called Maiden Grass and the variety ‘Morning Light’ is a variegated type with the fine textured green leaves having a white midrib and margins, giving it an almost silvery appearance. It will thrive in all types of soil as long as the bed or container has excellent drainage and access to full sun. The flowers appear in the fall and are described as reddish bronze plumes. ‘Morning Light’ makes a great specimen plant, but also can be used toward the back of planting beds.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season	Growth Form
‘Morning Light’ Maiden Grass	4-5’	2-3’	6’	Low-moderate, requires good drainage	Fall	Clumping, columnar growth pattern, with arching outer leaves

***Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Huron Sunrise’:**

‘Huron Sunrise’ Maiden Grass is another of the tall, columnar ornamental grasses. It is very tolerant of different soil types and can grow in both full sun and part shade. It prefers moderate amounts of soil moisture and is one of the few ornamental grasses that does not require good drainage. The green leaves turn a golden color after the first frost and the flowers are initially burgundy in color fading to white, first appearing in mid-Summer and lasting well into Fall.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Huron Sunrise’ Maiden Grass	5-6’	2-3’	6’	Moderate, poor drainage tolerated	Summer-Fall	Clumping, columnar growth pattern, with arching outer leaves

***Cortaderia selloana:***

Pampas Grass, native to Argentina, is a large ornamental grass with multiple white flower plumes extending above the gracefully arching green leaves. White- (shown at left below) and gold-striped leaf varieties have been developed and are available over the internet. Flowers appear in late Summer and last through Fall. Pink- and yellow-flowered (shown in the middle photo below) varieties are available over the internet. Pampas Grass is drought tolerant after it is well established and will grow well in all soil types except for supersaturated, flooded soils. The leaves are finely serrated, making annual late Winter trimming of the leaves to within a foot of the ground challenging. It is recommended that individual clumps be planted far enough apart to keep them separated from each other to expedite the annual leaf trimming.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Pampas Grass	5-8'	6-8'	12'	Low-moderate; drainage not critical	Summer- Fall	Clumping; arching leaves and large plume-like flowers

## Ground Covers and Non-woody Perennials:

### *Trachelospermum asiaticum* ‘Salsa’:

‘Salsa’ is a fairly new variety of Asian Jasmine that is supposed to have yellow, orange, red, and cream colored leaves, but when planted in full sun, it tends to revert back to the dark green coloration of the species. It forms a dense ground cover, ranging from 6-12” in height, spreading by above-ground stems. Unless contained by edging, this plant can become invasive and spread across lawns and beds where it is not wanted, but ‘Salsa’ does have one advantage over the original Asian Jasmine: in full sun, it does not spread as rapidly as the species.

‘Salsa’:



Species:



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Salsa’ Asian Jasmine	6-12”	Unknown	12” for 4” pots	Moderate, drainage not important	Flowers infrequently in Summer	Dense ground cover

### *Lantana camara* ‘Irene’:

‘Irene’ *Lantana* is one of the newer varieties of *Lantana*. It is classified as a moderately tall ground cover and has multicolored flower clusters made up of individual flowers in colors of red, pink, orange, and yellow. ‘Irene’, like ‘New Gold’, is very heat and drought tolerant and blooms from late Spring through Fall. This plant is a great butterfly attractor. The dark berries that appear after flower drop are eaten by birds, but children should be kept away from them as they are poisonous to humans.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Irene’ Lantana	2-3’	6-8’	24-36”	Low-moderate, prefers good drainage	Flowers Spring-Fall	Shrub-like ground cover

***Dietes bicolor:***

African Iris has green, grass-like leaves that reach a height of 2-3'. This plant spreads by underground tubers and has unique Summer-early Fall flowers ranging in color from pale to medium yellow, with each flower having three dark brown eye spots surrounded by orange. African Iris is very drought resistant and grows in any type of soil. Periodic thinning may be required to maintain good bloom production. They can also be grown in containers to control spreading.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
African Iris	2-3'	Variable	3-4'	Low-moderate	Summer- early Fall	Clumping, upright leaves

***Salvia greggii* 'Red':**

Red Autumn Sage is a cultivated variety of this Texas native perennial sage. *Salvia greggii* does well in its dry native habitat of southern Texas to northern Mexico, so it is well adapted to living in semi-desert conditions. This makes it a great candidate for planting in areas with only limited availability of supplemental watering, like transmission rights-of-way. Its dark red flowers attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. In early spring, individual plants should be pruned by at least one third to maintain a dense growth of leaves.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
'Red' Autumn Sage	3-4'	3'	4-5'	Low; requires good drainage	Summer- Fall	Semi-woody, shrublike

***Hesperaloe parvifolia:***

Red Yucca, which is actually in the Agave family, is a succulent native to the desert and semi-desert portions of Texas and northern Mexico. This plant is highly adaptable and will thrive in the high humidity of the Texas Gulf Coast as long as it has excellent drainage. It is often used in elevated beds in the medians of highways because of its ability to produce multiple stalks with clusters of dark pink to light red flowers which have yellow inner petals, even under the driest conditions. The flowers produce pods containing many black papery seeds which can be planted to grow new plants, although it can take three or more years to produce a flowering specimen.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Red Yucca	3-5'	4'	6'	Low; requires good drainage	Summer- Fall	Fountain-like arching leaves

## Woody Shrubs:

### *Raphiolepis indica* 'Snow White':

'Snow White' Indian Hawthorn is a medium-sized flowering shrub which maintains a neat, mounded appearance without the need for pruning. As the name implies, the early Spring flowers are pure white. They are replaced in the Summer by dark bluish black fruits. After they become established, 'Snow White' Indian Hawthorns are very drought tolerant.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
'Snow White' Indian Hawthorn	3'	4-5'	6'	Low-moderate; requires good drainage	Early Spring	Mounded shrub

### *Abelia grandiflora*:

Glossy Abelia is an evergreen shrub in the Houston area. It has relatively small, medium to dark green leaves occurring the entire length of the upright to cascading branches. The tubular white flowers are mildly fragrant and attract butterflies, and since they occur on the new growth of the plant, even trimming back the branches during the growing season of Spring through Fall to control the height of the shrub tends to increase blooming. Glossy Abelia is not attacked by disease or insects and can be used in mass plantings or in informal hedges. Soil type is not important, but relatively good drainage should be provided.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Glossy Abelia	3-6'	4-5'	6-7'	Low-moderate; requires good drainage	Spring - Fall	Cascading shrub

***Loropetalum chinense* ‘Sizzling Pink’:**

‘Sizzling Pink’ Chinese Fringe Flower is a medium size shrub with leaves that undergo a color change during the year, being a dark maroon to purple color during the winter months and turning a lighter color with some green showing through in the Spring through Summer seasons. The most notable thing about the fringe flower is that it blooms during the cooler months of the year, and the hot pink flowers really stand out against the dark leaves. The fringe flower has few pests or diseases that attack it, and it is not particular about soil type as long as it has good drainage.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
‘Sizzling Pink’ Chinese Fringe Flower	4-6’	4-5’	6-7’	Low-moderate; requires good drainage	Late Winter – Early Spring; sometimes repeats in Fall	Mounding shrub

***Jasminum mesnyi*:**

Primrose Jasmine is a large shrub exhibiting highly arching branches with the tips of the branches almost touching the ground around the shrub. Because of this growth habit, it is an excellent candidate for individual potting or for planting in elevated beds. In the early Spring, Primrose Jasmine is covered with lemon yellow, non-fragrant flowers growing on square stems and the leaves are dark green. This is a vigorous grower and can take some shade, but it does best in full sun. Periodic trimming of the branches will be required to keep the shrub in shape.



Variety Name	Height	Width	Spacing	Water Requirements	Flowering Season(s)	Growth Form
Primrose Jasmine	5-8’	6-8’	7-9’	Moderate; likes good drainage	Early Spring	Arching tall shrub