

14. Two-leafed Senna
15. Woody Carlowrightia

**VINES, MOST USED BY CATERPILLARS**

1. Aphidvine
2. Blue Passionflowervine
3. Cliff Morning Glory
4. Crucita
5. David's Milkberry
6. Reticulated Milkvine
7. Texas Virgin's Bower
8. Twinevine

**WILDFLOWERS AND GROUND COVERS**

1. Blackfoot Daisy
2. Chisme
3. Common Frogfruit
4. Cowpen Daisy
5. Dalea
6. Desert Horsepurshlane
7. Firewheel
8. Grasses - Buffalo and Sacahuista
9. Hair-seeded Bahia
10. Heep's Spiderwort
11. Inland Camphor Plant
12. Lazydaisy
13. Mexican Hat
14. Narrow-leafed Dayflower
15. Ponyfoot Wood Sorrel
16. Powderpuff
17. Primroses - Cutleaf and Stemless Evening
18. Redbud
19. Rio Grande Phlox
20. Rock Daisy
21. Ruellias - Runyon's and Western
22. Sand Bluebonnet
23. Soft-leafed Dogweed
24. Stemless Perezia
25. Stiff-leafed Dogweed
26. Sunflowers - Bush, Common and Runyon's
27. Swanflower
28. Texas Paintbrush
29. Texas Palafoxia
30. Texas Thistle
31. Two-color Prairie Coneflower
32. Verbenas - Dakota, Hillside and Texas
33. White Palafoxia
34. Wild Petunia

*Plant material on these lists was recommended by representatives of the Native Plant Project, the Nature Conservancy, Texas Parks and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife and by Mike Heep, owner of Heep's Nursery.*

**Sources of Native Plants for the Rio Grande Valley**

**Bayview**

River's End Nursery (956) 233-4792

**Brownsville**

Gentry's Garden Center (956) 350-9805  
 Palm Gardens Nursery (956) 546-1348  
 Tony's Nursery (956) 541-5322

**Edinburg**

Reyes Nursery (956) 380-1528

**Harlingen**

Grimsell Seed Co. (956) 423-0370  
 \*Heep's Nursery (956) 457-6834\*  
 \*Mother Nature's Creations (956) 428-4897\*  
 Stuart Place Nursery (956) 428-4439

**McAllen**

C.S. Waugh's Nursery (956) 686-5591  
 Grand Oak Junction Garden & Gifts (956) 631-6670  
 Valley Garden Center (956) 682-9411

**Mission**

Shady Acres Nursery (956) 581-7783

**Rio Grande City**

\*Rancho Lomitas Nursery (956) 487-2576\*

**Raymondville**

Caldwell's Jungle Nursery (956) 689-3432

**San Benito**

River Oaks Nursery (956) 399-4078

**Weslaco**

Mid-Valley Garden & Pond (956) 973-1998  
 \*Valley Nature Center (956) 969-2475\*

*\*Offer Native Plants Only*

*This list revised March, 2008. Any registered nursery handling Valley native plants which wishes to be added to this list, please contact Valley Proud Environmental Council, 513 E. Jackson, Harlingen, Texas 78550 (956) 412-8004.*

***"Never forget we did not inherit this land from our ancestors; it is on loan to us from our children."  
 —Indian Saying***

**Information on Native Wildscape Certification for Residential and Commercial Property is Available From:**

**1. TEXAS WILDSAPES BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM**

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wildscapes  
 Nongame and Urban Program  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
 4200 Smith School Road  
 Austin, TX 78744 (512) 389-4644

**2. BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM**

www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat  
 National Wildlife Federation  
 11100 Wildlife Center Drive  
 Reston, VA 20190-5362 (703) 438-6000 / 1-800-822-9919

The Native Plant Project has published five handbooks on Native Trees, Plants, Shrubs, Pond and Wetland Plants and Butterfly Gardening. Information from these handbooks has been included in this Guide. The Native Plant Project is located at:

**NATIVE PLANT PROJECT**

www.nativeplantproject.org  
 P. O. Box 2742  
 San Juan, TX 78589

**Handbooks are available from:**

**VALLEY NATURE CENTER**

301 South Border Avenue  
 P. O. Box 8125  
 Weslaco, TX 78599 (956) 969-2475

*(Price per handbook is \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. A discount is available for an order of multiple copies.)*

*The Valley Nature Center will rescue native plants to be destroyed by construction companies, developers or if they are no longer wanted by homeowners.*

**For advice on revegetating private land holdings, contact:**

**Ms. Lisa Williams**

The Nature Conservancy of Texas  
 Private Land Initiative  
 P. O. Box 6281, McAllen, TX 78502-6281  
 (956) 580-4241

**Maxwell Pons, Jr.**

The Nature Conservancy of Texas  
 10000 Southmost Road  
 Brownsville, Texas 78521  
 (956) 546-0547

**Other Native Plant Guides available from Valley Proud**

*"A Guide to Gowing Healthy Trees in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas"*

*"A Guide for Selecting and Planting Native Ground Cover, Wildflowers, Shrubs and Trees on South Padre Island and in the Laguna Madre Area"*



Available at:  
**Valley Proud Environmental Council**  
 513 E. Jackson, Harlingen, TX 78550  
 www.valleyproud.org

Prepared By:  
**James R. Matz**  
 Chair, Valley Proud Environmental Council

**A Guide For  
 Selecting and Planting  
 Native Cacti,  
 Groundcovers, Shrubs,  
 Trees, Vines and  
 Wildflowers  
 In The Rio Grande  
 Valley of Texas and  
 Mexico**



**THIRD EDITION 2008**

## SELECTING NATIVE SHRUBS AND TREES

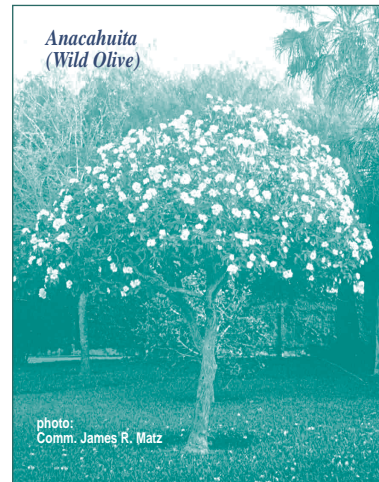
The choice of a native shrub or tree, like any other plant, should be dictated by landscaping need and the desired effect. Given the limits of purpose and site, finding a native shrub or tree which will handsomely fulfill every requirement is no problem. Once a choice is made, there remain only a few location and planning tips to be observed.

### Obtaining Plants

First, buy your plant from a reputable, reliable nurseryman. DO NOT transplant from the wild. Not only is this rarely successful, it diminishes our threatened natural plant and animal habitats. A healthy, vigorous looking small shrub or tree is much preferred over a large one and smaller specimens suffer less transplant shock. With smaller plants, chances of survival and rapid growth are very high, they are cheaper, and within a year their size equals those which were initially two to three times larger.

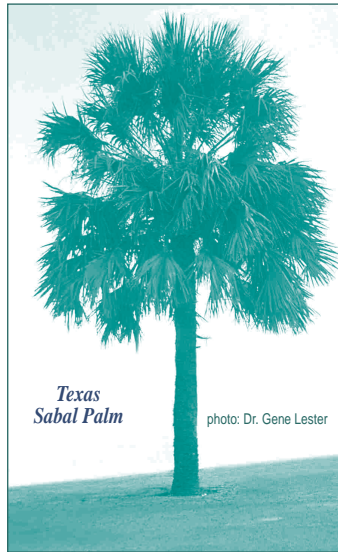
### Site Location

Poorly drained areas should be avoided or mounded for drainage and the trees/shrubs planted on top of the mound. It is difficult for native trees/shrubs to grow on a site where a large portion of the soil near the root area is covered by blacktop or paving. Make sure the plant has plenty of growing space and do not plant too close to houses or pathways.



Anacahuita  
(Wild Olive)

photo:  
Comm. James R. Matz



Texas  
Sabal Palm

photo: Dr. Gene Lester

## PLANTING NATIVE SHRUBS AND TREES

### When to Plant

The best times to plant in the Lower Rio Grande Valley are late autumn (to allow for root establishment and dormancy before any freeze) and mid-February after danger of freezing has passed.

Planting during the hotter months can be done but requires much more water, care and maintenance and is equally more stressful on the plant and you than during the cooler late autumn through early spring months. The one exception is palm trees which do best when planted late Spring through early Fall while the soil is warm.

### Preparing the Site

A hole should be dug sufficiently deep and wide enough to hold the full root system. In very poor soils the hole should be wider and deeper. As the hole is dug, the soil from the top 4 to 6 inches, which is richer, should be kept separated from the subsoil. Discard the subsoil and replace with the top soil or improve the subsoil by mixing at least 1:1 subsoil to moist peatmoss or excess media from the pot in which the shrub was growing.

### Setting the Shrub or Tree

The top of the root system or ball should NOT be lower than the top of the hole. The shrub or tree usually dies when planted too deep. Remove the shrub or tree from the container. If roots are so numerous they are encircling the soil ball, cut the root ball vertically to a depth of two inches with a sharp knife to encourage the roots to grow outward. After setting the shrub or tree in the hole, soil should be added gradually by working the first lot of soil in firmly at the base of the root ball, then filling the hole with more soil. The shrub or tree may be raised and lowered during the filling process to eliminate air pockets, thus bringing the roots in closer contact with the soil. When the hole is filled, tamp the area firmly with your feet.

### Watering

The soil around the shrub or tree must be watered thoroughly after the plant is set in place. A ring of soil at the perimeter of the filled hole, four inches high, should be made for holding water. The frequency of watering depends on the type of soil, the size of the shrub or tree and the amount of rainfall. The soil ball around a newly planted shrub or tree can dry out rapidly and Valley showers cannot be depended upon to supply sufficient moisture during the critical first year of growth. During mid-spring, summer and mid-fall months water all newly planted shrubs or trees for the first 4 to 6 weeks as often as three times a week by filling to the top of the soil ring. Every two weeks thereafter for the first year, you should provide ample moisture for your shrub or tree to survive and grow. Then let nature do the watering.



Yucca

photo: Dr. Steve Bentsen

## NATIVE TREES

1. Anacahuita (Wild Olive)
2. Anaqua (Sugarberry)
3. Baldcypress, Montezuma (Ahuehuete, Sabino)
4. Barreta
5. Black Willow (Sauz)
6. Brasil (Bluewood)
7. Cedar Elm (Olmo)
8. Chapote (Texas Persimmon)
9. Colima (Lime Prickly-ash)
10. Coma del Sur (Saffron-plum)
11. Coyote Willow (Sauz)
12. Granjeno (Spiny Hackberry)
13. Guajillo (Berlandier's Acacia)
14. Guayacán (Soapbush)
15. Honey Mesquite
16. Live Oak
17. Mescal Bean (Texas Mountain Laurel)
18. Retama (Lluvia de Oro)
19. Rio Grande Ash
20. Runyon's Tree
21. Soapberry, Western (Jaboncillo)
22. Sugar Hackberry (Palo Blanco)
23. Tenaza
24. Tepeguaje
25. Texas Ebony (Ebano)
26. Texas Huisache
27. Texas Palo Verde
28. Texas Sabal Palm
29. Wright's Catclaw (Uña de Gato)

## NATIVE SHRUBS

1. Allthorn (Junco)
2. Amargosa
3. Berlandier Wolfberry
4. Black Brush (Chaparro Prieto)
5. Cenizo (Texas Ranger, Purple Sage)
6. Chapotillo (Texas Torchwood)
7. Chilipiquin (Bird Pepper)
8. Coral Bean (Colorin)
9. Coyotillo
10. Desert Lantana
11. Desert Yaupon
12. Drummond's Turk's Cap
13. Elbowbush
14. Fern Acacia
15. Hachinal
16. Heart-leafed Hibiscus
17. Huisachillo
18. Joint-fir
19. Lotebush
20. Low Croton

21. Manzanita
22. Mariola
23. Mexican Caesalpinia
24. Mexican Trixis
25. Mission Fiddlewood
26. Orange Zexmenia
27. Oregano
28. Oreja de Ratón
29. Rio Grande Aloysia
30. Short-horned Zexmenia
31. Shrubby Blue Sage
32. Sierra Madre Torchwood
33. Skeletonbush
34. Snake-eyes
35. Tamaulipan Fiddlewood
36. Texas Baby-bonnets
37. Texas Colubrina
38. Texas Kidneywood
39. Texas Lantana
40. Torrey's Croton
41. Trecul's Yucca
42. Vasey's Adelia
43. Velvet Lantana
44. Wherry Mimosa
45. White Brush (Chaparro Blanco)
46. Yellow Sophora

## AGAVE-FORMS SHRUBS AND CACTI

1. Barbedwire Cactus
2. Buckley's Yucca
3. Guapilla
4. Rough Agave
5. Runyon's Huaco
6. Siler's Huaco
7. Tasajillo
8. Thorn-crested Agave
9. Variegated Huaco
10. Nopal Prickly Pear

## SHORT SHRUBS

1. Calderona Ratany
2. Climbing Plumbago
3. Coldenia
4. Dutchman's Breeches
5. Flor de San Juan
6. Hairy Tubetongue
7. Leatherstem
8. Palillo
9. Pigeonberry
10. Prostrate Bundleflower
11. Taper-leafed Heliotrope
12. Texas Nightshad
13. Tropical Sagee