



Native Plants of Texas

The Beauty and Benefits of Going Native 🌿

What Are Native Plants?

- ▶ Plants that naturally grow in Texas — no human introduction needed.
- ▶ They've adapted to our state's soil, climate, and wildlife over thousands of years.
- ▶ Fun fact: Texas has over 5,000 species of native plants!









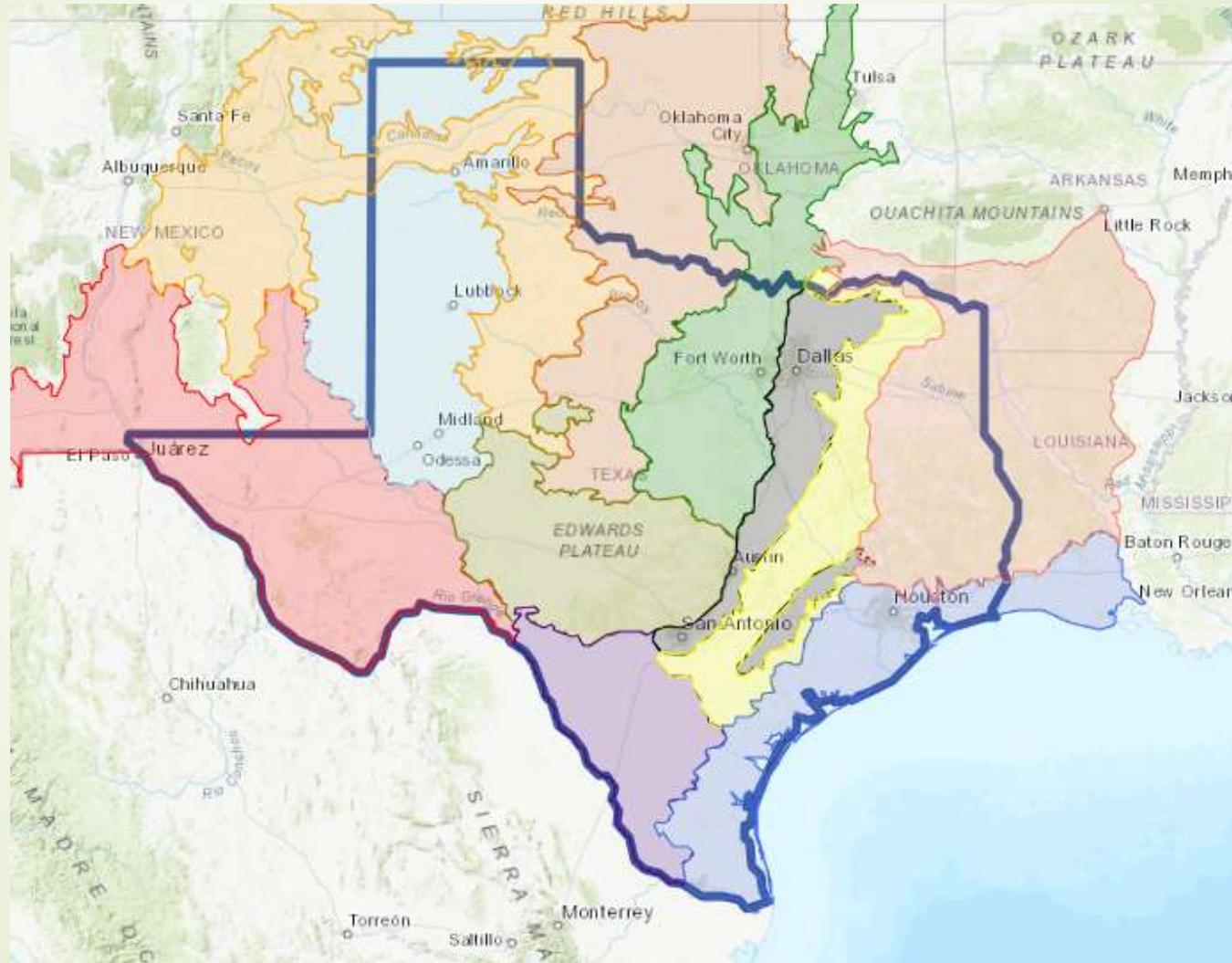


Why Choose Native Plants?

- Native plants are Texas tough.
- Survive on local rainfall - no extra watering.
- Resist heat and drought.
- Require fewer fertilizers or pesticides.
- Keep yards beautiful and sustainable.
- Improved air quality.
- Improved water quality.
- Return the area to a healthy ecosystem.



11 Ecoregions of Texas

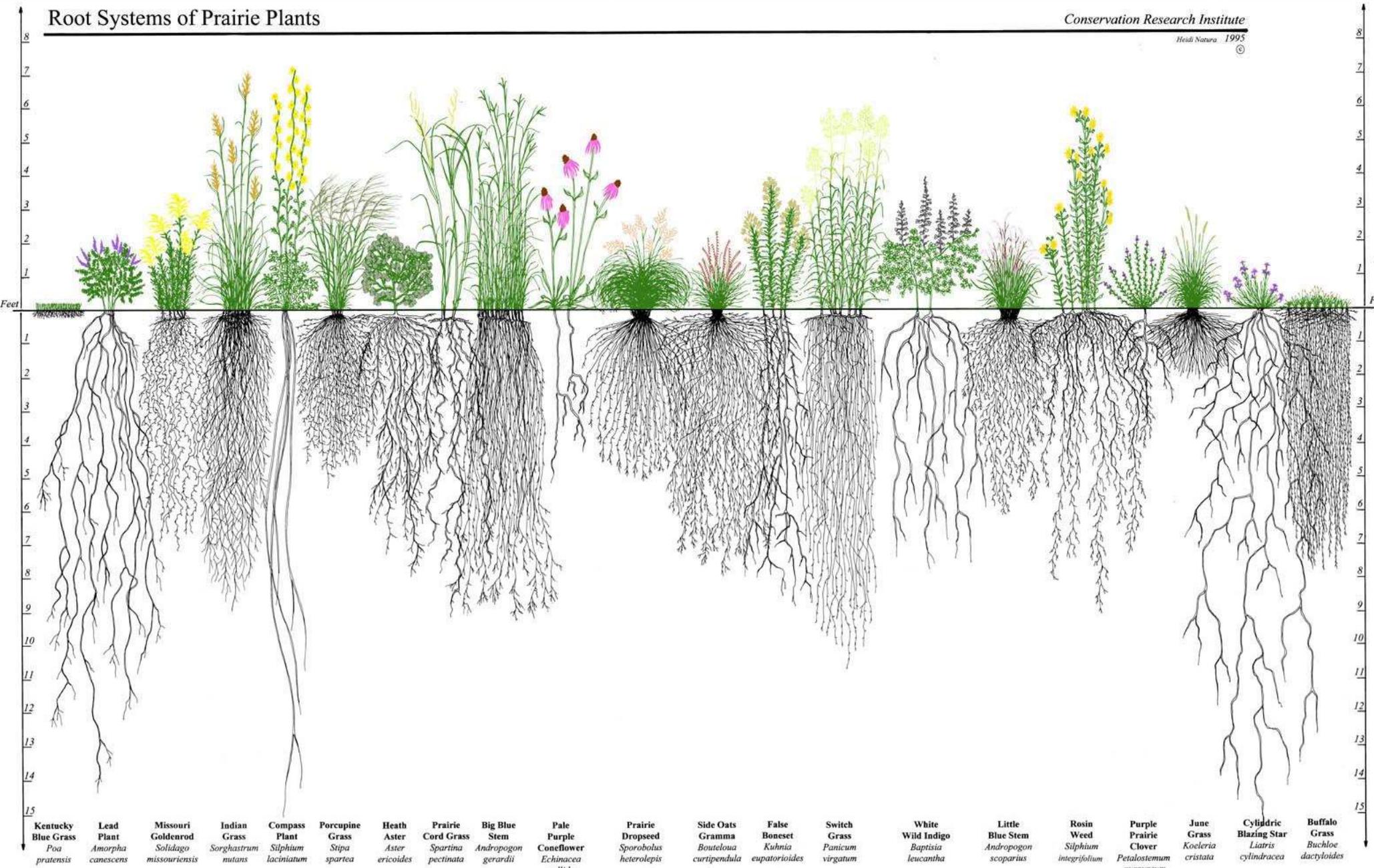


<https://www.npsot.org/resources/native-plants/ecoregion-map/>

Root Systems of Prairie Plants

Conservation Research Institute

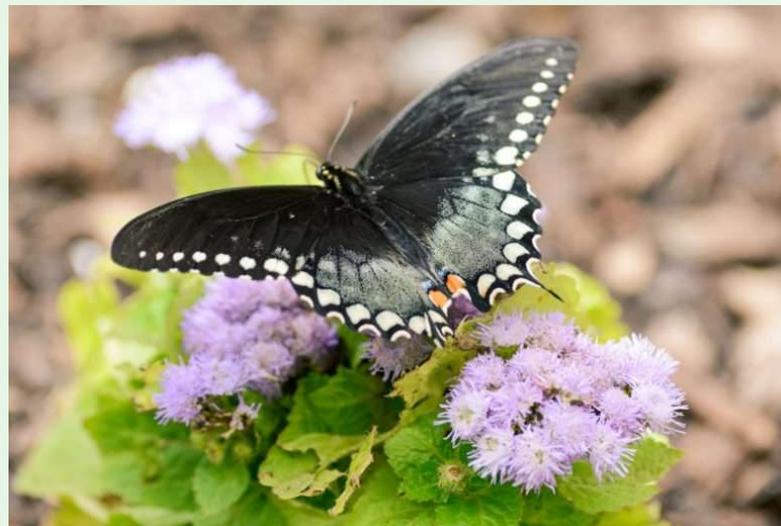
Heidi Natura 1995
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| Kentucky Blue Grass
<i>Poa pratensis</i> | Lead Plant
<i>Amorpha canescens</i> | Missouri Goldenrod
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i> | Indian Grass
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | Compass Plant
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i> | Porcupine Grass
<i>Stipa spartea</i> | Heath Aster
<i>Aster ericoides</i> | Prairie Cord Grass
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> | Big Blue Stem
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | Pale Purple Coneflower
<i>Echinacea pallida</i> | Prairie Dropseed
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | Side Oats Gramma
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | False Boneset
<i>Kuhnia eupatorioides</i> | Switch Grass
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> | White Wild Indigo
<i>Baptisia leucantha</i> | Little Blue Stem
<i>Andropogon scoparius</i> | Rosin Weed
<i>Silphium integrifolium</i> | Purple Prairie Clover
<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i> | June Grass
<i>Koeleria cristata</i> | Cylindric Blazing Star
<i>Liatris cylindracea</i> | Buffalo Grass
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> |
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Benefits for the Environment

- ▶ • Pollinator power: food & shelter for bees, butterflies, and birds.
- ▶ • Erosion control: deep roots hold soil.
- ▶ • Cleaner water: filter runoff.
- ▶ • Reduced pollution: fewer chemicals.



Benefits for You

- • Lower water bills 💧
- • Less yard work 🧤
- • More wildlife and color 🌻
- • Real environmental impact 🌍



Texas Stars: Examples

- Bluebonnet – state flower, great for pollinators.
- Black-eyed Susan – bright and hardy.
- Texas Sage – blooms after rain.
- Mexican Feathergrass – drought tolerant.



INVASIVE PLANTS-OPPOSITE OF NATIVE

- ▶ Invasive plants don't belong here — they spread aggressively and harm Texas ecosystems.
 - ✓ Compete with native plants for water, sunlight, and space.
 - ✓ Change soil and water balance.
 - ✓ Reduce food and habitat for Texas wildlife.
 - ✓ Are often introduced from other countries for landscaping or farming.

-  **Kudzu** — fast-growing vine that smothers trees and fences.
-  **Chinaberry Tree** — invades open fields and outcompetes native trees.
-  **Giant Reed (Arundo donax)** — clogs rivers and streams.
-  **Japanese Honeysuckle** — chokes out native flowers and shrubs.
-  **Johnsongrass** — spreads quickly and invades pastures and roadsides.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3A2JWoAA64>



Get Involved!

- Plant native flowers in your yard or school.
 - Join groups like the Native Plant Society of Texas.
 - Encourage your community to 'Go Native!'
 - Share your projects online to inspire others.
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Resources



- • Native Plant Society of Texas — npsot.org
- • Texas Parks and Wildlife — tpwd.texas.gov
- • Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center — wildflower.org





Conclusion

- Using native plants helps you, Texas, and the planet.
 -  Think globally, plant locally!
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