



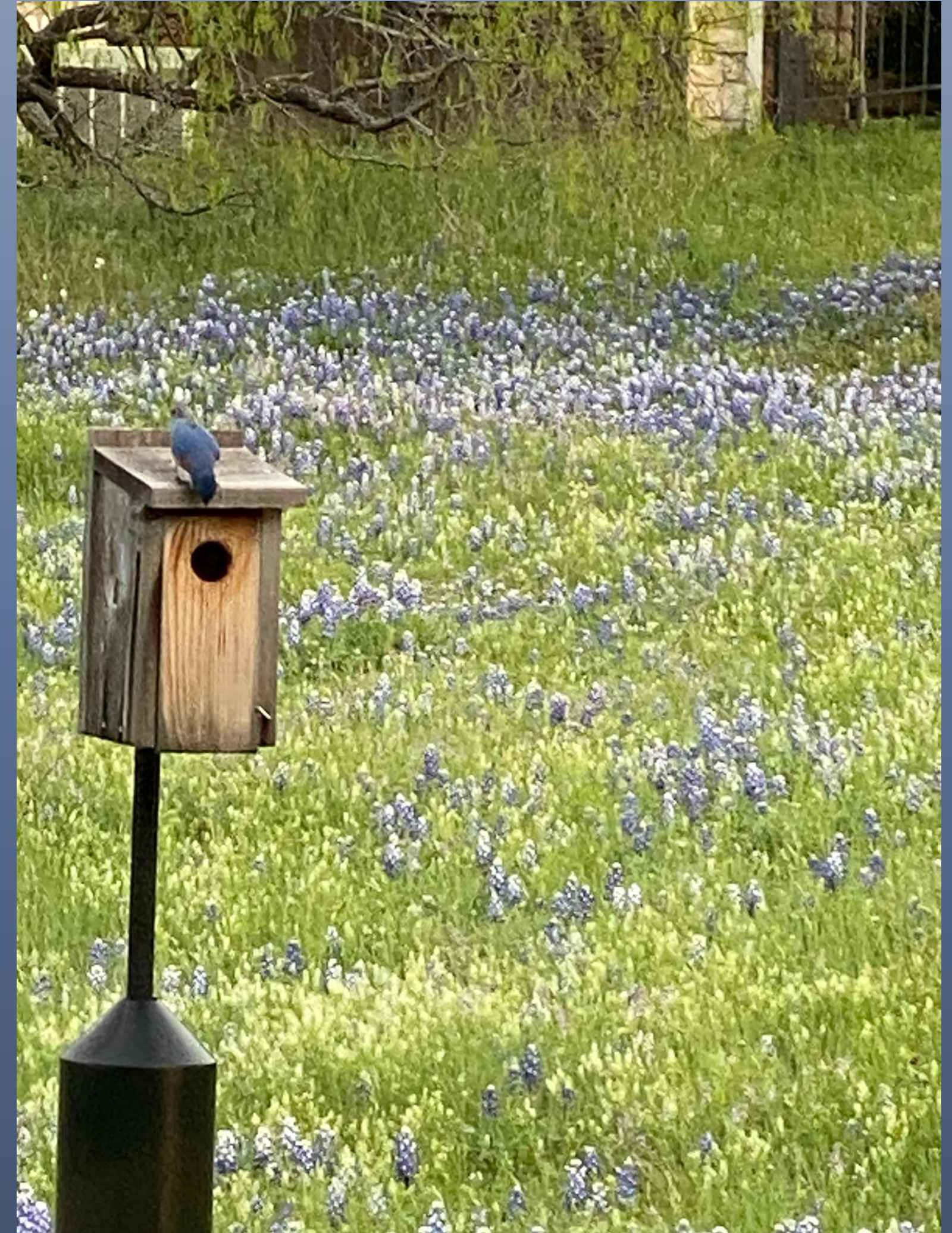
Surviving the Drought with Color

Vicki Adcock

May 8, 2025

With Fall & Spring Rain

April 4, 2023



Fall & Spring Drought

March 23, 2025



After Spring Rain

April 23, 2025



Drought

- Llano County is in D4 Exceptional Drought (highest drought level)
- Burnet County is in D2 Severe Drought to D4 (HSB D4)

Source: [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)

Environment

- Where do we live? Llano Uplift in the Edwards Plateau
- Environment Characteristics:

Soil—coarse, well-drained, sandy loams and gravelly soil with exposed bedrock

Rainfall—annual 24–32” (peak May, June, September)

Plant Selection

- **What is a Native Plant?**

A plant species that is indigenous to Texas and occurred before European colonization

- **Why plant natives?**

- Well adapted to soil and weather extremes
- Water Conservation (require less water)
- Maintenance (less prone to pests & diseases)
- Ecosystem Health (food, habitat for native wildlife, pollinators)
- Aesthetics (beautiful natural landscape)

Irrigation

- Horseshoe Bay Stage 2 (automated once a week, effective 4/3/2025)
- Plants prefer deep, infrequent watering (establishes deep roots)
- Run multiple cycles, 1st to wake up the soil and plants (5 minutes). Multiple short cycles prevent runoff.
- Hand watering allowed anytime (must water frequently to establish new plants)
- Grass needs 1 inch per week
- Mulch 3-4 inches to retain water (don't place next to tree trunks)
- **You can water too much!**

Reduce Water Usage

- Eliminate or reduce grass
- Remove non-native water loving plants
- Use drip irrigation
- Add mulched beds
- Utilize LCRA grants



Landscaping Options

- Plant native flowering perennials
- Consider bloom period for color & food for pollinators
- Plant native ornamental grasses & sedges
- Use gravel and rocks next to house
- Add water sources for birds & wildlife



Crossvine

- Aggressive evergreen vine
- 36–50 feet
- Bloom March–May



Standing Cypress

- Biennial
- Reseeds
- Prolific bloomer
- Hummingbirds love!



Possumhaw Holly

- Deciduous
- Berries through winter
- Easily trimmed



Henry Duelberg Salvia

- Perennial
- Pollinators love!
- Blooms Spring through Fall



White Mistflower

- Perennial
- Blooms late summer through early fall
- Butterflies love!
- Blooms best when severely cut in winter
- Butterflies love!



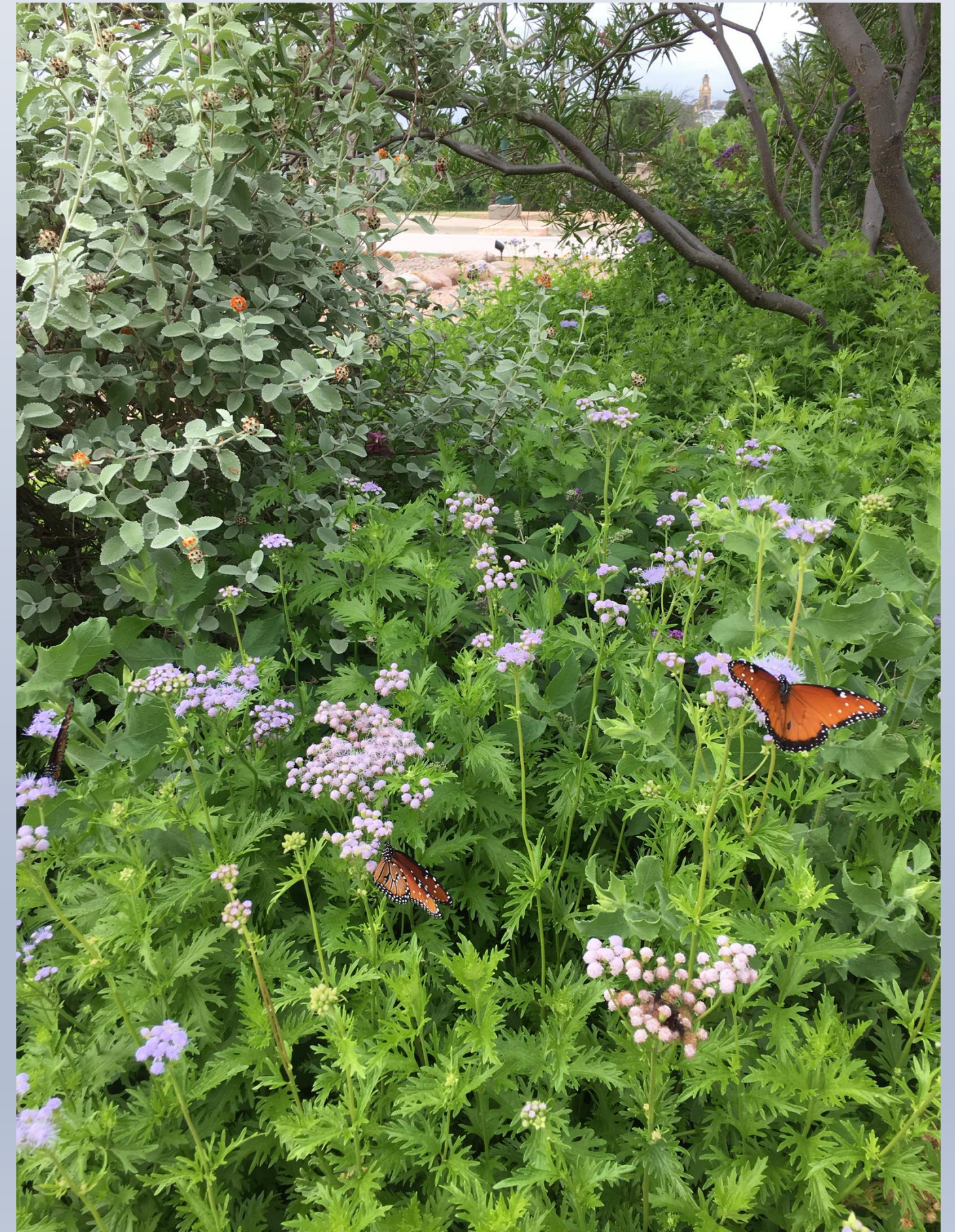
Frogfruit

- Perennial ground cover
- White flowers
- Trails well over walls



Greg's Mistflower

- Perennial
- Butterfly Magnet
- Serves as host and nectar plant



Mexican Bush Sage

- Perennial
- Does best in full-sun
- Fall Bloom



Passionflower Vine

- Beautiful flower
- Caterpillars may strip the leaves
- Not deer resistant



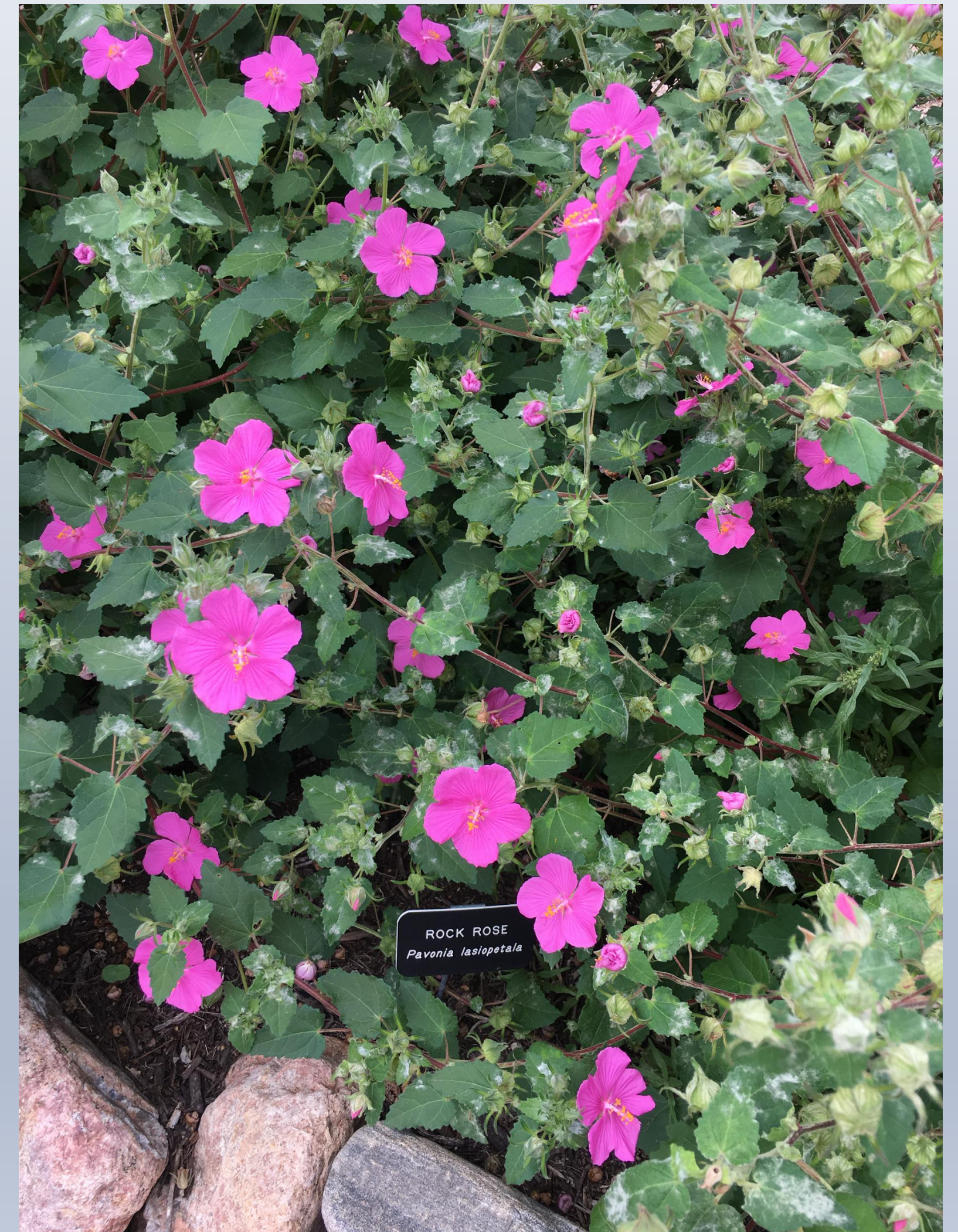
Blackfoot Daisies

- Perennial
- Good drainage is a must!
- Heat & drought tolerant



Rock Rose

- Small shrub
- Stems to 4 feet
- Blooms April to November



Damianita

- Evergreen
- Low growing
- Blooms April through September



Chocolate Daisy

- Small perennial, nectar source
- Numerous blossoms
- Blooms open in morning, PM droop
- Blooms April—November
- Flower smells like chocolate!



Webberville Sedge

- Alternative to grass
- Mostly evergreen
- Full to partial sun



Pale-Leaf Yucca

- Evergreen
- About 30 inches height
- White bloom in May, June



Antelope Horn Milkweed

- Host & Nectar Plant for Monarch Butterfly
- Drought tolerant
- No maintenance



Purple Skullcap

- Semi-evergreen perennial
- Low growing shrub (12")
- Drought tolerant
- Blooms March through July



Woolly Stemodia

- Semi-evergreen perennial
- White, purple, or violet blooms
- Blooms April through November
- Drought tolerant



Lace Cactus

- Perennial Cactus Evergreen
- 3–8” tall
- Find it blooming in rock outcroppings in HSB in April/May



Other Favorites

- Zexmenia—perennial shrub with yellow blooms May—Nov.
- Fall Aster—perennial herb, purple blooms Sep.—Oct.
- Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*) perennial shrub, blooms April—Oct
- Turks cap—spreading shrub, red pendant flowers May—Nov, prefers partial shade, great nectar plant. Moderate deer resistance.
- Esperanza—3–6' perennial yellow blooms Apr—Nov, drought tolerant
- Beautyberry—perennial deciduous shrub, bloom May—Jul, spectacular purple berries in fall

Resources

- **Native plant nurseries**

Backbone Nursery, Marble Falls

HEB

The Natural Gardener, Austin

Barton Springs Nursery, Bee Cave Rd., Austin

Rainbow Gardens, San Antonio

Natives of Texas, 11 miles outside Kerrville

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin

Native American Seed, Junction

- **Plant Information**

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center wildflower.org

Texas A&M (google request with tamu) source for adapted plants or natives

Highland Lakes Native Plant Society of Texas (npsot.org) Meet 5 times/year.

Texas Invasives <https://texasinvasives.org>

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”

-Robert Louis Stevenson