

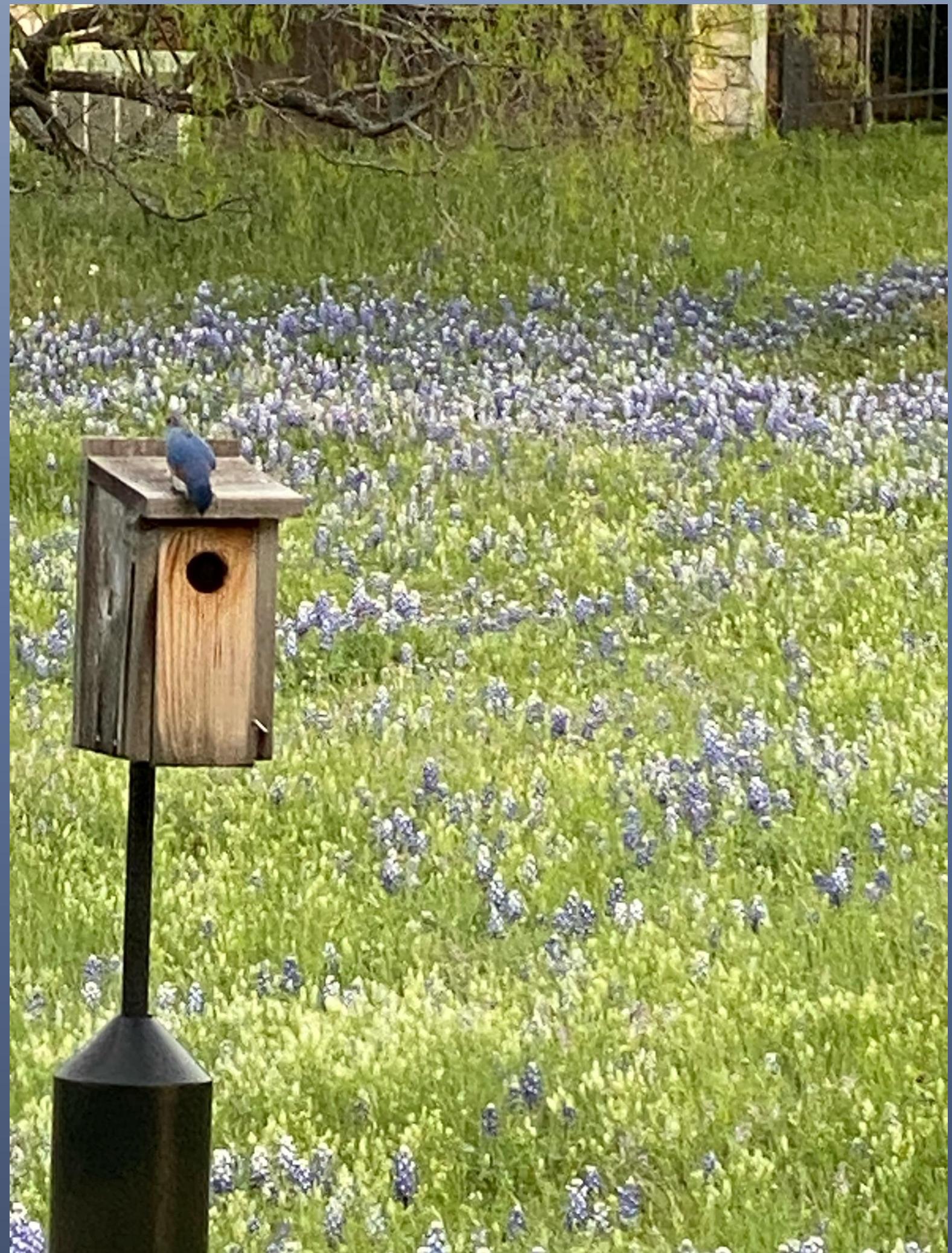


# Surviving the Drought with Color

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

# 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!



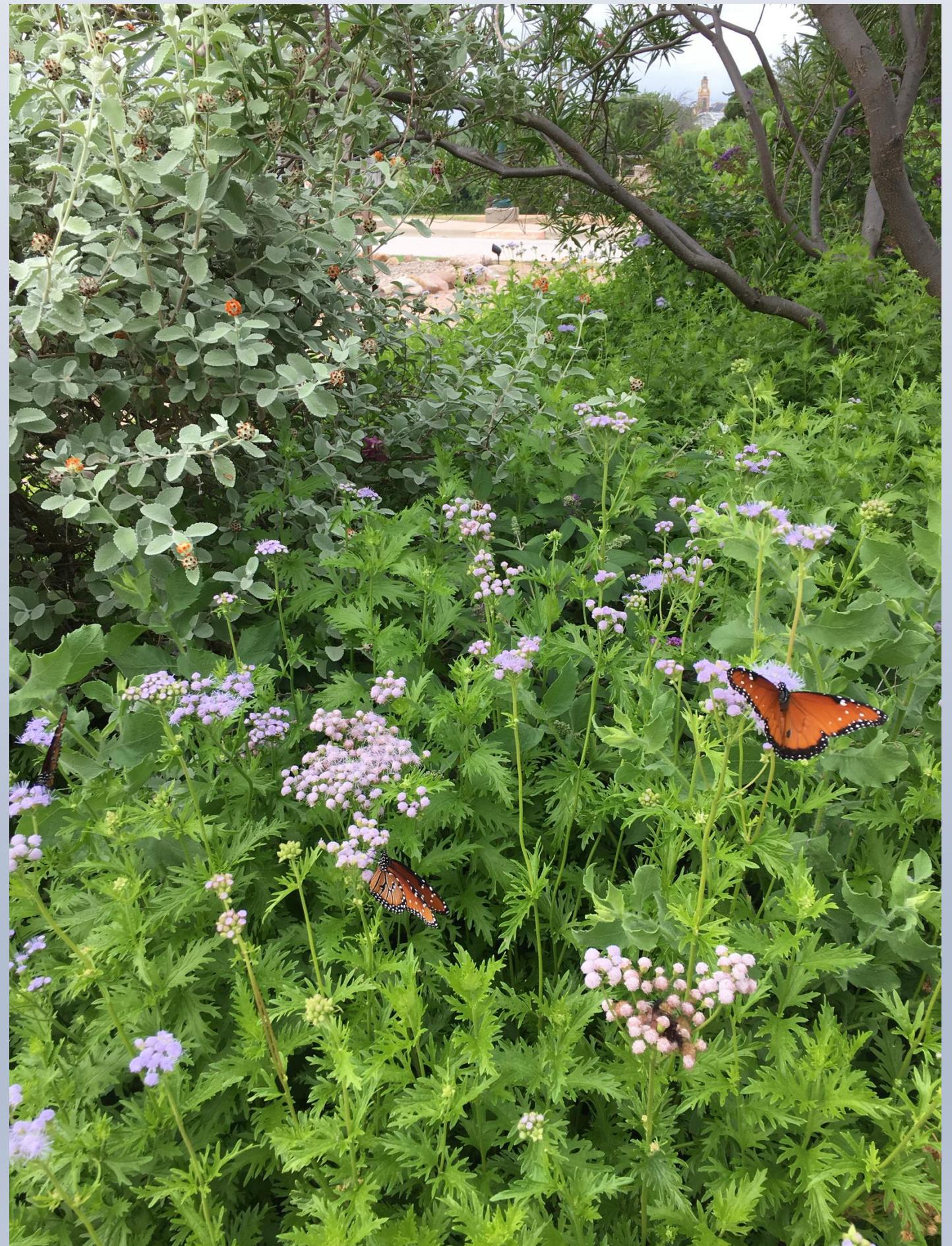
# Frogfruit

- 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



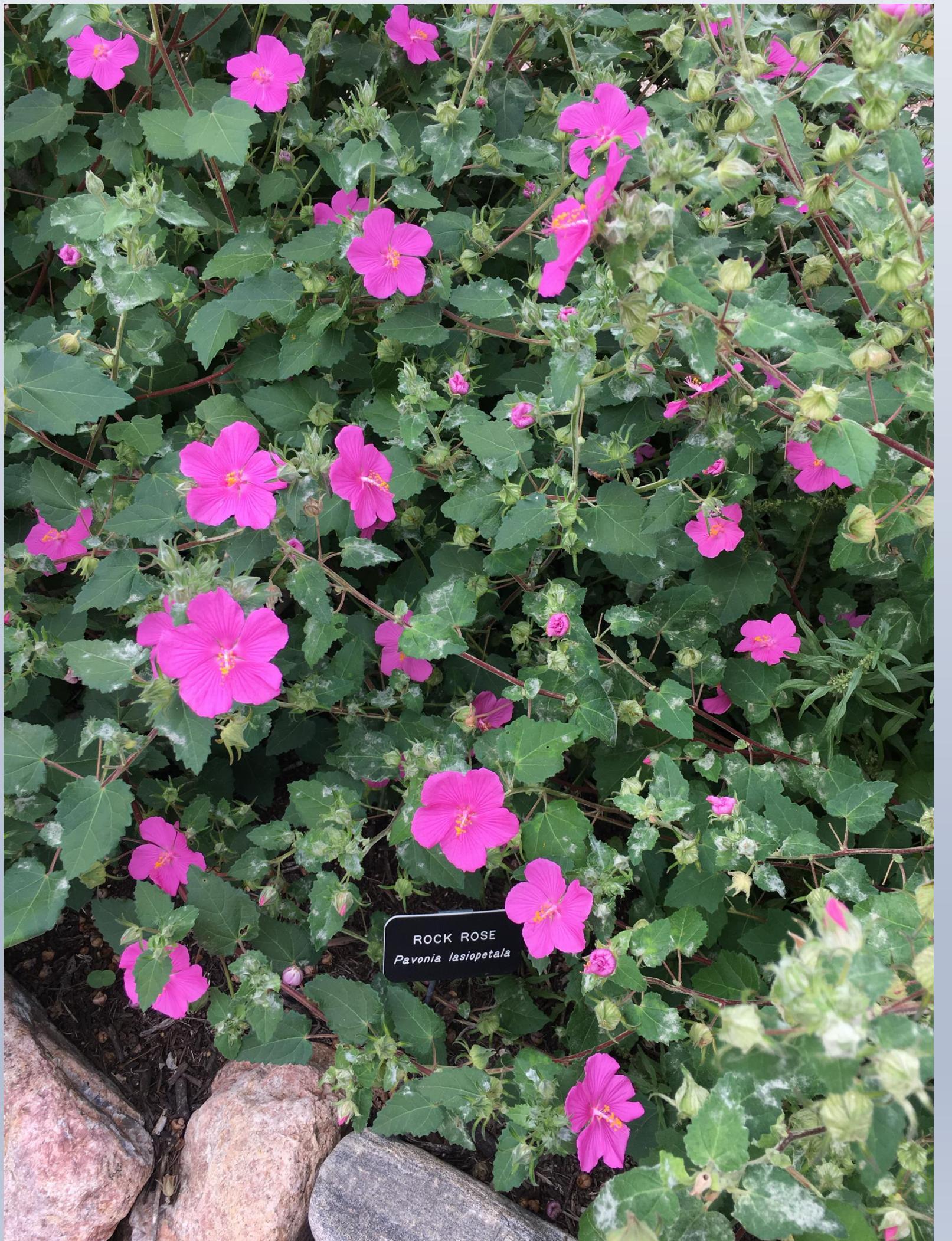
# Blackfoot Daisies

- 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



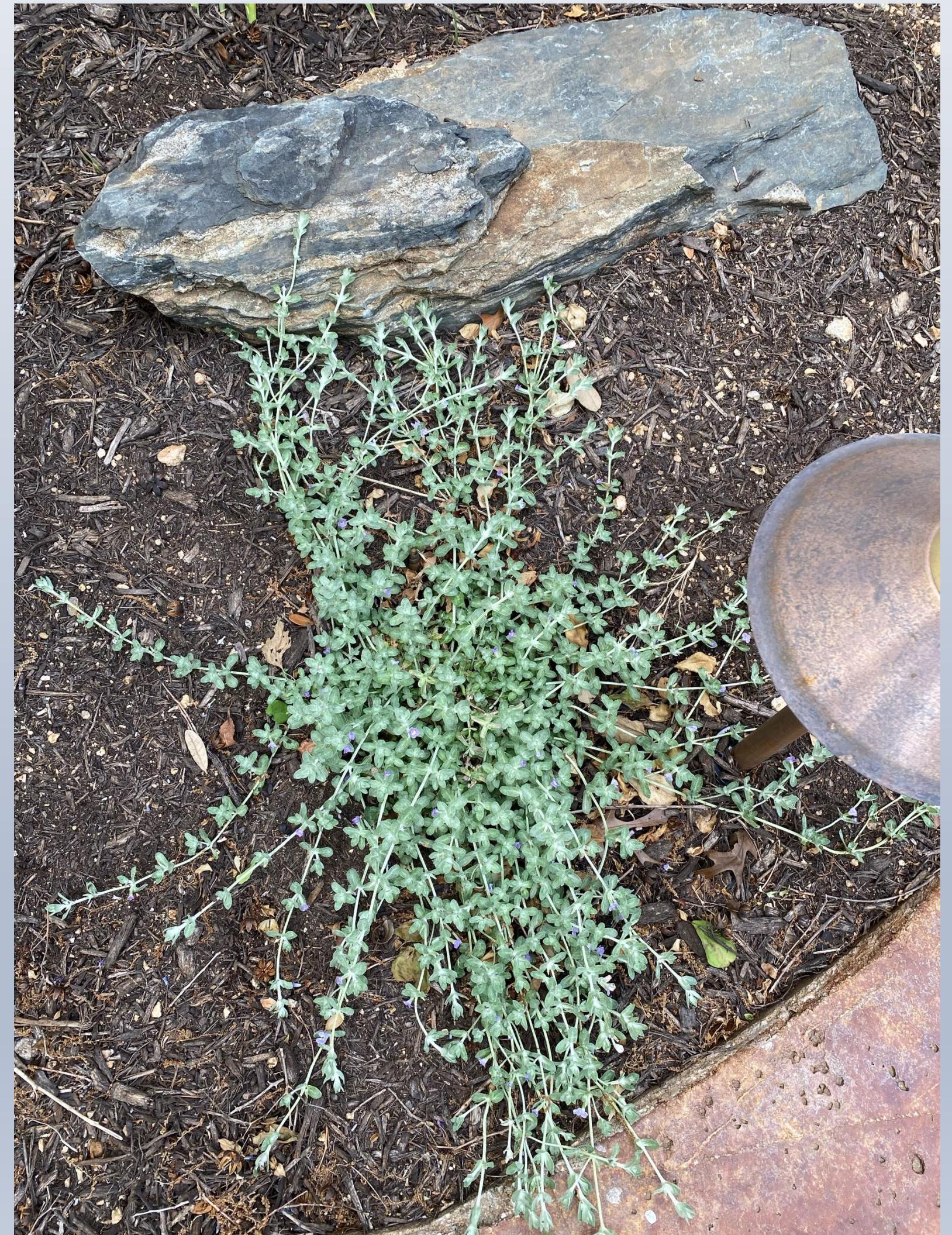
# Purple Skullcap

- 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](http://wildflower.org)

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

Highland Lakes Native Plant Society of Texas ([npsot.org](http://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