



Shady Garden Plants for North Central Texas

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes & Shade Tolerance
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Understory Trees

Carolina Buckthorn	<i>Frangula/Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Possumhaw Holly	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Redbuds: Eastern, Texas, or Oklahoma	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Rough-leaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Texas Mountain Laurel	<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Yaupon Holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun

Shrubs

American Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa Americana</i> var. <i>Americana</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Dwarf Palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Elbowbush	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Frogfruit	<i>Phyla Nodiflora</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled; 4 hrs/day of sun
Softleaf Yucca	<i>Yucca arkansana</i>	Need dry feet! Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Strawberry Bush	<i>Euonymus americanus</i> & <i>atropurpurea</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Evergreen Sumac	<i>Rhus virens</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled; Needs sun for berries
Aromatic Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	
Texas Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus texensis</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled

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Turk's Cap	<i>Malvastrum arboreum</i> var. <i>drummondii</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Dwarf yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Twistleaf Yucca	<i>Yucca rupicola</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled; 4 hrs/day of sun – west sun OK

Groundcovers

Cedar Sedge	<i>Carex planostachys</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Cherokee Sedge	<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Golden Groundsel	<i>Packera obovata</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Horseherb	<i>Calyptocarpus vialis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Lyre-leaf Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Pigeonberry	<i>Rivina humilis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Southern Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris ludoviciana</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
White Avens	<i>Geum canadense</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Wood Fern	<i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Wood Violet	<i>Viola missouriensis</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled

Vines

Crossvine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Pitcher Clematis	<i>Clematis pitcheri</i> var. <i>pitcheri</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Scarlet Clematis	<i>Clematis texensis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun

Grasses

Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled; 4 hrs/day of sun – west sun OK
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Inland Seaoats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Texas Sedge	<i>Carex texensis</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled
Canada Wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i> var. <i>Canadensis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Virginia Wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i> var. <i>virginiana</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun

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Flowering perennials

American Germander	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Blue Mistflower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Blue Stars	<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Chile Pequin	<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Columbine, Red	<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Columbine, Yellow/TX Gold	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha/hinckleyana /longissima</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Frostweed	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Gregg's Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>	Sun-Shade Edges; Dappled; 4 hrs/day of sun
Gulf Coast Penstemon	<i>Penstemon tenuis</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum sp</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Purple/Fall Aster	<i>Aster sp.</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Sage, Cedar	<i>Salvia roemeriana</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Sage, Lyre-leaf	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Sage, Tropical	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia sp.</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
White Avens	<i>Geum canadense</i>	Full Shade; can take a little bit of morning sun
Winecup	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Sunny Edges; Needs at least 4 hrs/day of sun – west sun OK

More information on the plants above, as well as additional Garden Lists are available at <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/trinity-forks/trinity-forks-resources/> under "What to Plant".

Please also refer to the Resource List there for lists of local nurseries, books and other information of use.

Compiled for Trinity Forks Chapter of the NPSOT by Kathy Saucier, January 2005, revised 2015, revised by Liz Moyer, 2025, with thanks to Daniel Cunningham of RootedIn.