

Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Texas Wildflowers and Pollinators. Caitlin Gallegon, Jasper County Extension Agent, presented a plethora of colorful wildflower pictures that are adapted to Tyler County. Some wildflowers are native while others were introduced into Texas from other parts of the globe. There are several non-native flowering plants, such as wisteria, mimosa and Japanese honeysuckle, that are considered invasive.

Most wildflowers should be planted in the fall from October 1st through December 1st. Unless your property is a wetland, drought tolerant wildflowers are better for our fluctuating weather patterns.

All five species of bluebonnets that are native to Texas are the state's flower. Two of the five will grow only in Texas -- *lupinus subcarnosus* and *lupinus texensis*.

In addition to bluebonnets, Caitlin's list of wildflowers for our region included Texas paintbrush (Indian paintbrush), black-eyed Susans, Texas bluebell, butterfly milkweed, compass plant (sunflower family), crimson clover, drummond phlox, foxglove (imported from western Europe), giant purple coneflower, Indian blanket, lemonmint, prairie coneflower, purple passionflower, silverleaf nightshade, standing cypress, Texas thistle, and wine cup.

Pollinators are important for our food supply. For an effective pollinator garden, choose plants that flower in different seasons.

Sources of native Texas seeds are Bamert Seed Company at <https://bamertseed.com/> and Roundstone Native Seed Company <https://roundstoneseed.com/>.