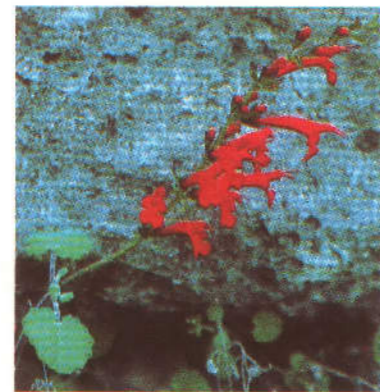




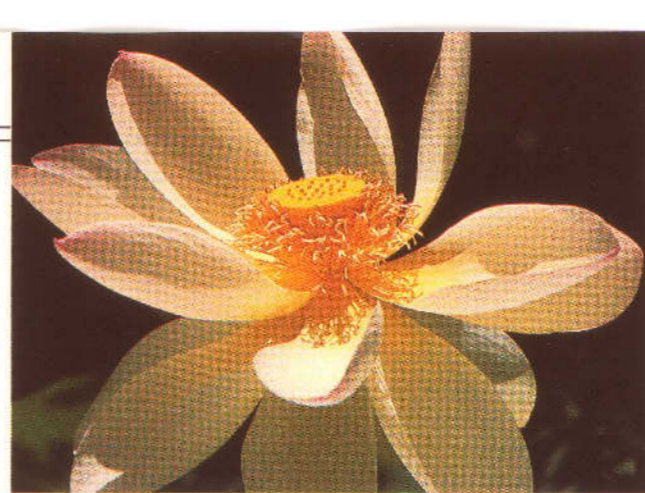
1. Lantana (*Lantana horrida*)



2. Cedar sage (*Salvia roemeriana*)



3. Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



4. American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*)



5. Huisache daisy (*Amblyopsis setigera*)



6. Wild azaleas (*Rhododendron concinnum*)



7. Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*)



8. Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)



9. Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia alata*)



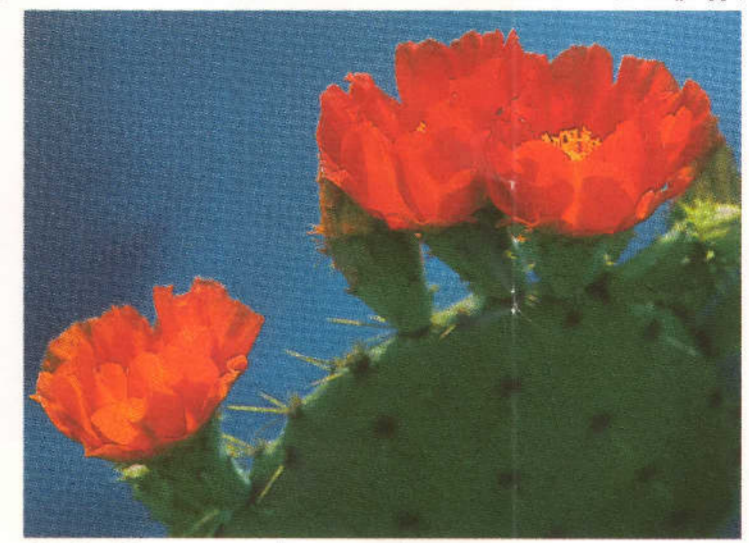
10. Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)



11. Indian paintbrushes (*Castilleja* spp.)



12. Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)



13. Wild phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)



14. Cerise (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)



15. Lemonmint (*Monarda citriodora*)



16. Standing cypress (*Ipomopsis rupestris*)



17. Mexican hat (*Ratibida columnaris*)



18. Coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)



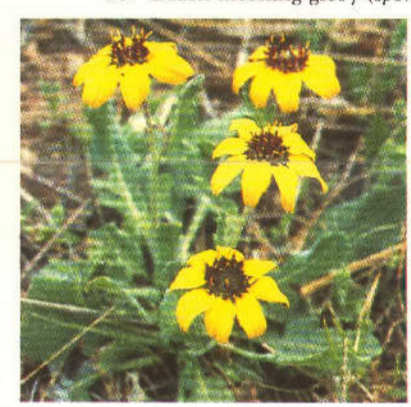
19. Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* spp.)



20. Beach morning glory (*Ipomoea stolonifera*)



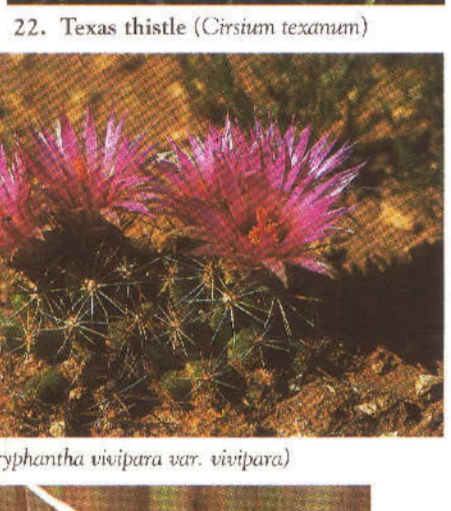
21. Spiderwort (*Tradescantia gigantea*)



22. Texas dandelion (*Pyrrochloa caroliniana*)



23. Grass pink (*Calopogon pulchellus*)



24. Pink evening primroses (*Oenothera speciosa*)



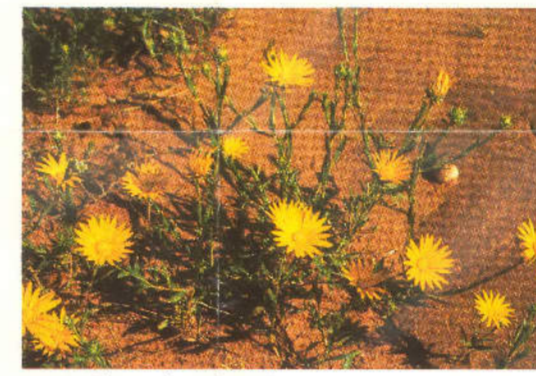
25. Agaves (*Agave* spp.)



26. Sleepy daisy (*Xanthisma texanum*)



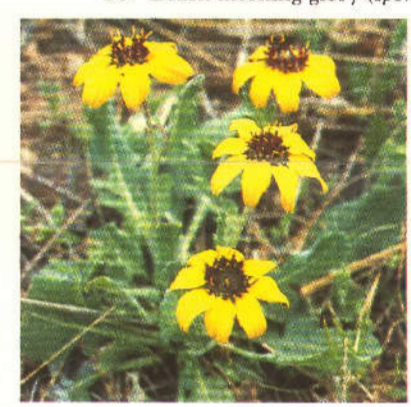
27. Texas dandelion (*Pyrrochloa caroliniana*)



28. Chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*)



29. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



30. Spider lilies (*Hymenocallis liriosme*)



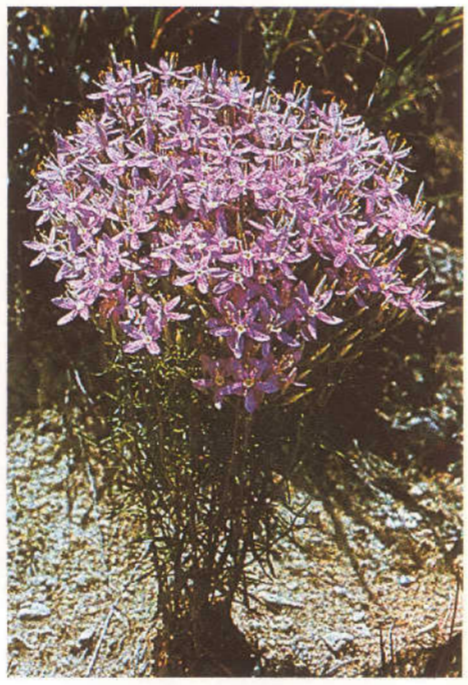
31. Tahoka daisy (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*)



32. Cacti (*Coryphantha vivipara* var. *vivipara*)



33. Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea glabra*)



34. Mountain pink (*Centaurium beyrichii*)



35. Obedient plant (*Physostegia pulchella*)



36. Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)



37. Swamp mallow (*Iibiscus moscheutos*)



38. Wild foxglove (*Penstemon laxiflorus*)



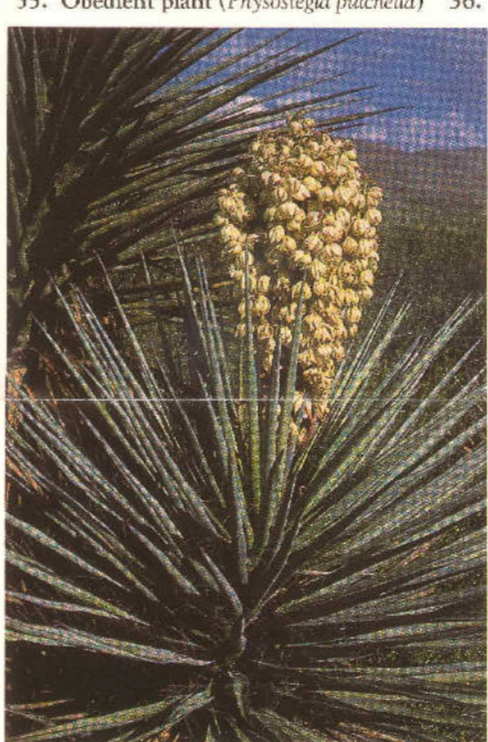
39. Winecup (*Callischoe digitata*)



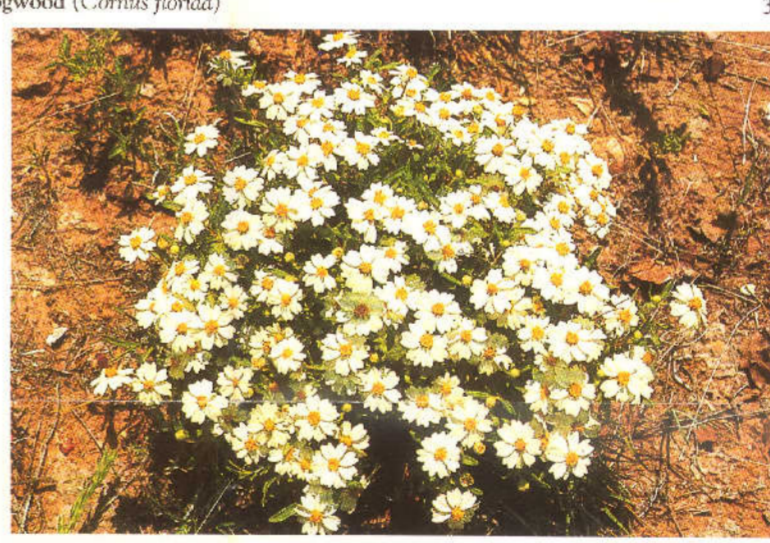
40. Sand verbena (*Abronia ameliae*)



41. Gayfeathers (*Liatris* spp.)



42. Yucca (*Yucca torreyi*)



43. Blackfoot daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*)



44. Rain lilies (*Cooperia pedunculata*)



45. Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)



46. Basket flower (*Centauria americana*)



47. Bluebells (*Eustoma grandiflorum*)



48. Verbena (*Verbena* spp.)



49. Texas bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*)



50. White prickly poppy (*Argemone albiflora*)



51. Fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*)



WILDFLOWERS OF TEXAS

PUBLISHED BY
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF TRAVEL & INFORMATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

WILDFLOWER SPECIES

- Lantana** (*Lantana horrida*), a three- to five-foot shrub, grows in various habitats throughout the state. The bright multicolored blossoms flower from spring until the first frost. ●●●●●●
- Cedar sage** (*Salvia nemerosina*) inhabits shady, moist areas of Central Texas. Often found in cedar brakes, oak woods and canyons, the vivid red flower adds a colorful touch to somber woods. Cedar sage blooms from March to July. ●●●●●●
- Butterfly weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*) blooms in spring and summer in East and Central Texas. Although the leaves are poisonous to livestock, the nectar is a staple of monarchs and other butterflies. ●●●●●●
- American lotus** (*Nelumbo lutea*), or water lily, is a close relative of the sacred lotus of Egypt. It grows in quiet waters of South and East Texas. At maturity the flat-topped seed pod floats away, releasing seeds in new locations as it decays. ●●●●●●
- Huisache daisy** (*Amblyopsis setigera*) emits a fresh scent that smells like new-mown hay. It blooms from April to June in Central and South Texas. The yellow huisache (we-satch) daisy often grows in thick blankets beneath huisache and other chaparral shrubs, hence its name. ●●●●●●
- Wild azaleas** (*Rhododendron canadense*), sometimes called swamp honeysuckle, thrive in the wet woodlands of East Texas. Large pink and white petals appear in early spring. ●●●●●●
- Ocotillo** (*Fouquieria splendens*) is also known as slimwood, candlewood, coachwhip, and flamingoword. A native of West Texas, ocotillo (oh-ke-tee-oh) blooms in April and May, and sporadically thereafter following rains. ●●●●●●
- Cardinal flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*), although found throughout the state, requires moist areas that occur more commonly in the eastern half of the state. The bright red flowers often grow along stream banks. Cardinal flowers bloom from late May to December depending on the amount of moisture. ●●●●●●
- Pitcher plant** (*Sarracenia alata*) is a carnivorous plant that grows in swampy areas of East Texas. Attracted by sweet nectar secreted by a pitcher plant's glands, insects crawl into the inviting green tube, where downward curving hairs prevent their escape. ●●●●●●

Match the colors following each flower identification to the map of Wildflower Regions of Texas in this brochure.

- Indian blanket** (*Gaillardia pulchella*), also called firewheel, flowers across much of the state from April to June. When viewed in mass, its brilliant combinations of red, orange and yellow resemble brightly woven caperines. ●●●●●●
- Indian paintbrushes** (*Castilleja* spp.) vary in color from scarlet to orange, cream, yellow and occasionally purple. The brightly colored tips of the petal-like bracts look like they've been dipped in a brilliant paint. Paintbrushes grow throughout the state and bloom in early spring. ●●●●●●
- Goldenrod** (*Solidago* spp.), a much-maligned plant, is mistakenly thought to cause hay fever. Texas has over 30 species of goldenrod, most of which flower in late summer and fall. ●●●●●●
- Wild phlox** (*Phlox drummondii*) occurs most frequently in spectacular masses of color among sandy post oak woods and along roadsides in South Central Texas. While red is the most common color, you will also see various shades of pink, blue and purple. Phlox blooms in early spring. ●●●●●●
- Cenizo** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) thrives in dry areas of the western half of the state. It is also called Texas or purple sage. After rains, the soft, ash-colored leaves become engulfed by masses of lavender blossoms. ●●●●●●
- Lemonmint** (*Mentha citriodora*), also called horsemint, grows abundantly over most of Texas, in many different colors. Various species flower from May to September, attracting particular nectar-seekers, including bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Pioneers brewed a cough medicine from lemonmint. ●●●●●●
- Standing cypress** (*Ipomopsis rubra*) ranges from East Texas west to Gillespie and Taylor Counties. The bloom is a spectacular orange of scarlet trumpets displayed from May to July. ●●●●●●
- Mexican hat** (*Ratibida columnaris*) is named for a flower that looks strikingly like the high-crowned, broad-brimmed Mexican sombrero. Mexican hat blooms from May to July, and later with favorable weather. ●●●●●●
- Coroopsis** (*Coreopsis tinctoria*), or tickseed, often blankets whole fields and roadsides with the brilliance of gold from May to August in the eastern half of the state. ●●●●●●

- Prickly pear cactus** (*Opuntia* spp.) occurs throughout Texas. The yellow to deep purple flowers form edible, pear-shaped fruits that turn dark red as they ripen in late summer and fall. ●●●●●●
- Beach morning glory** (*Ipomoea stolonifera*) twines over the sand dunes of Padre Island and other coastal beaches. Blooming from spring to fall, the flowers open each morning and close in the afternoon. A closely related species has pink or purple flowers. ●●●●●●
- Spiderwort** (*Tradescantia gigantea*), well represented in Texas, has a dainty, three-petal flower with slender, hairy stamens. Acidic soils produce bluer flowers, while more alkaline soils create varying shades of pink and purple. ●●●●●●
- Texas thistle** (*Cirsium texanum*) grows in all areas of the state except the Panhandle. It is almost identical to the Scottish thistle. Bumblebees swarm around the flowers, which bloom from April to August. ●●●●●●
- Grass pink** (*Calopogon pulchellus*) is one of many fascinating orchids found in the tangled swamps of the Big Thicket area in Southeast Texas. Grass pinks and other unique species are becoming more scarce as human activities threaten their habitats. ●●●●●●
- Pink evening primroses** (*Oenothera speciosa*), sometimes called buttercups, open at dusk in northern parts of the state, but with the next day. New blossoms open each evening; in the rest of the state, blooms stay open all day. With favorable weather, these drought-tolerant beauties bloom from April to June. ●●●●●●
- Agaves** (*Agave* spp.) grow in the Chihuahuan Desert of Southwestern Texas. Sometimes called century plants, as each plant only flowers once in its lifetime, it may take many years to reach the flowering stage. The tall flower stalks provide a feast for birds, bats, butterflies, and other insects. Tequila is made from commercially grown agaves. ●●●●●●
- Sleepy daisy** (*Xanthoxylum texanum*) grows in open sandy areas, mainly in South and Central Texas. At night or on cloudy days, the ray flowers close up, and the daisy seems to "sleep." Sleepy daisy blooms from late spring to early fall. ●●●●●●

- Texas dandelion** (*Pyrrolophaps caroliniana*), or false dandelion, grows commonly over the eastern half of the state. Its lemon-yellow flower heads bloom in the mornings from March through May. ●●●●●●
- Chocolate flower** (*Berlandiera lyrata*), often called green eyes, grows in Central and West Texas on rocky limestone soils. When the yellow ray flowers drop, the green sepals underneath look like eyes. Chocolate flower blooms from June to October. ●●●●●●
- Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a prairie species found throughout Texas. Its bright yellow flowers with a chocolate brown center bloom from May through September. Hardy black-eyed Susan makes an excellent wildflower for roadsides. ●●●●●●
- Spider lilies** (*Hymenocallis liriosme*) have fragrant flowers with dramatic white petals. Requiring a generous source of water, they grow in ditches, beside ponds, and on coastal prairies. ●●●●●●
- Tahoka daisy** (*Machaeranthera tenacitifolia*) grows abundantly in the sandy soils of West Texas or the Panhandle. Its rich purple flower head with the yellow center adds a vivid spot of color to dusty landscapes from late spring to summer. ●●●●●●
- Cacti**, such as this showy species (*Coryphantha vivipara* var. *vivipara*), grow on dry soils of the Texas Panhandle and bloom in early summer. The flowers vary in color from pink to red, lavender and yellow-green. ●●●●●●
- Bougainvillea** (*Bougainvillea glabra*), although not native to Texas, is widely cultivated in the lower Rio Grande Valley for its rare beauty and rich color. It is named for the French navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1732-1811). ●●●●●●
- Mountain pink** (*Centaurea beyrichii*) thrives on the barren, gravel-strewn limestone hills of Central Texas and westward. The flowers, which bloom in early summer, branch to form a perfect bouquet. Called quinine weed by pioneers, the plants were dried and used to reduce fevers. ●●●●●●
- Obedient plant** (*Physostegia pulchella*) is an endemic species, found mostly in wet bottomlands of East Texas. You can move the flowers around on the stem and they'll stay where you put them, hence the name "obedient." Obedient plant blooms from April to June. ●●●●●●

- Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*) blossoms herald spring throughout much of East Texas beneath towering pines (softwoods) and hardwoods. Spring Dogwood Trails are scheduled at Palestine, Woodville, Tyler, and Quitman, Texas. ●●●●●●
- Swamp mallow** (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) is one of the most popular Texas species in the mallow family. Native to tropical areas along the Gulf Coast, swamp mallow also inhabits low areas of East Texas. ●●●●●●
- Wild foxglove** (*Penstemon laxiflorus*) blooms from April to May in various shades of lavender and purple. The bell-shaped flowers are also called fairy thimbles. Early settlers called the plant "balmory," and brewed a laxative tea from the leaves. ●●●●●●
- Winecups** (*Callirhoe digitata*) are found in most parts of the state, except the west. The delicate bumpily flowers bloom in early spring, on sandy soils in open woods and scrublands. ●●●●●●
- Sand verbena** (*Abronia ameliae*) blooms from April to August on dry plains, sandy hills and beaches, mostly in southern Texas. Not actually in the verbena family, sand verbena is a showier relative of the fallurrias or heart's delight, in the four o'clock family. ●●●●●●
- Gayfeathers** (*Liatris* spp.), also called blazing stars, grow in open areas throughout the state. Blooming from late summer to fall, the purple or pink spikes contrast strikingly with prairie grasses. ●●●●●●
- Yucca** (*Yucca torreyi*), or Spanish dagger, flourishes over much of Texas, but is most common in western areas where it can attain heights of 18 feet. A huge mass of white blossoms appears in spring and sometimes after fall rains. ●●●●●●
- Blackfoot daisy** (*Melanopodium leucanthum*) thrives on calcareous soils of West and North Texas. A low-growing perennial, the flowers form a dense, compact mound. Blackfoot daisies flower from early spring through fall. ●●●●●●
- Rain lilies** (*Cooperia pedunculata*) appear like magic a few days after heavy rains, from spring to fall. The blossoms open slowly at dusk, gradually expanding during the night, to appear in full flower the next morning. ●●●●●●

- Texas mountain laurel** (*Sophora secundiflora*), also called mescl bean, is an evergreen shrub or small tree found in Central and Southeast Texas. In early spring, mountain laurels produce lovely clusters of purple flowers with a distinct grape fragrance. The hard, red beans that appear in the fall are poisonous. This species is totally unrelated to the southern mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) found in eastern states. ●●●●●●
- Basket flower** (*Centaurea americana*), also called shaving brush, has feathery pink outer ray flowers surrounding a creamy center of disk flowers. Underneath the flower are straw-colored bracts that resemble a woven basket. Basket flower occurs throughout most of Texas, and blooms from June to July. ●●●●●●
- Bluebells** (*Eastonia grandiflora*) may occur throughout the state, except in the pines of East Texas or mountains of West Texas. One of the loveliest Texas wildflowers, the bluebell blossoms from June to September. Don't pick them! Bluebells have virtually disappeared in many locations due to indiscriminate picking. ●●●●●●
- Verbena** (*Verbena* spp.) species, found throughout all regions except the Piney Woods, are among the most abundant wildflowers in the state. Although verbenas bloom most profusely in the spring, they may flower at other times of the year as well, depending on the amount of rainfall. ●●●●●●
- Texas bluebonnets** (*Lupinus texensis*) blanket large portions of the state in early spring. All six species of lupine that grow in Texas have been designated as the official state flower by the State Legislature. ●●●●●●
- White prickly poppy** (*Argemone albiflora*), an abundant, nettle-like plant of Central and South Texas, blooms profusely in April. Closely related is a yellow species, Mexican poppy, and several other species with colors varying from lavender to rose. ●●●●●●
- Fleabane** (*Erigeron philadelphicus*) is a common flower of sandy soils throughout most of East Texas, usually along roadsides and streams. It flowers early in the spring, persisting until late summer. ●●●●●●

WILDFLOWERS OF TEXAS

AND OTHER TIMES

While spring hosts lavish wildflower displays, succeeding months offer their own spectacles. Indian blankets may color entire fields with red and orange during May and June. Hosts of brilliant yellow flowers drive during summer's hottest months. Elegant Queen Anne's lace is a December offering, followed by fall blossoms including displays of chrysanthemums bloom during the first half of football season. Also in mid-October, roses are the stars of Tyler's annual Rose Festival. But wildflowers are treated for color by autumn trails: a late October weekend in Canadian, and the four weekends of that month in Wintersboro. In West Texas, colorful blossoms of cacti, succulents and other desert species may erupt following any rain.

Keep this folder handy as you travel Texas. It will introduce many beauties you'll find beside Texas highways, and enhance the pleasure of your trip.

LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

The state's capital city, Austin, hosts the National Wildflower Research Center devoted to the preservation and use of native flora in planned landscapes. While primarily a research facility, visitors are welcome weekdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Especially during April and May visitors will find demonstration plots abound with wildflowers. Information fact sheets on wildflower planting and propagation are offered. The Center is just east of Austin at 2600 PM 973 (between Texas 71 and PM 969).

NATION'S LARGEST GARDENER

With its sprawling size and diversity of landforms, Texas offers a treasure of spectacular wildflowers for residents and visitors alike. Over 5,000 species of flowering plants are native to Texas. The abundance results from an exceptional multitude of plant habitats and weather conditions.

Texas elevations range from sea level to craggy mountain peaks over 8,000 feet high. More than 55 inches of annual rainfall drenches jungle-like regions of East Texas, while the arid Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas averages less than eight inches of moisture per year. Although Panhandle localities average 24 inches of snowfall a year, recorded a snowflake at Texas' subtropical tip has never recorded a snowflake.

WILDFLOWERS OF TEXAS

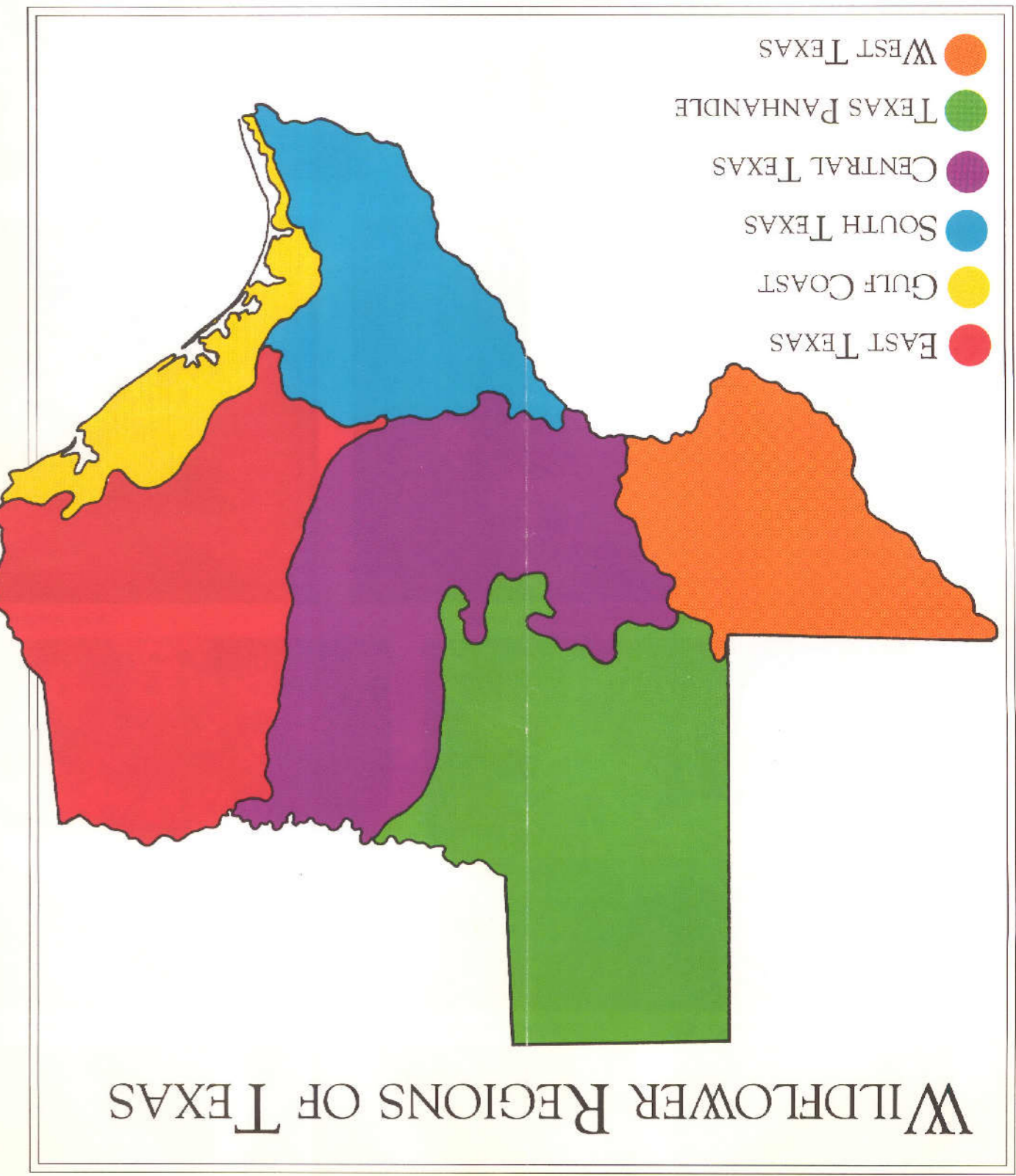
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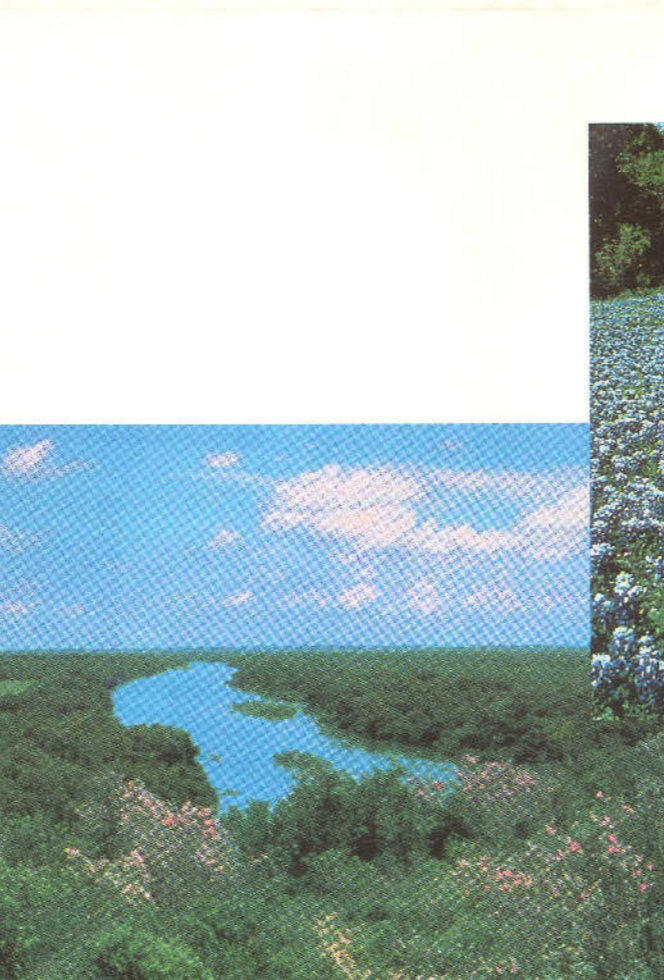


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EAST TEXAS

The eastern portion of Texas includes the vegetational areas of the Piney Woods, Post Oak Savannah, and Blackland Prairies. With its abundant rainfall (40-55 inches a year), the Piney Woods is characterized by mixed pine and hardwood forests, and swamps that support unique species such as pitcher plants, orchids and sundews. Flowering dogwoods herald the arrival of spring in moist woodlands. The Post Oak Savannah, dominated by hickories, post oak and blackjack oak, comprises a transition zone between the eastern forests and prairies to the west. The Blackland Prairies, remnants of a swath of prairies that once covered 12 million acres, are grassland communities. The once dominant grass species — big and little bluestem, Indiangrass, and switchgrass — are found now only in pockets of land left undisturbed by grazing or cultivation.



SOUTH TEXAS

South Texas, known as the Rio Grande Plain, is a land of thorny woodlands, shrublands, and many subtropical species. Formerly an area of open grasslands, today South Texas landscapes reflect the changes wrought by agriculture, industry and urban development. Rainfall is sparse, but when it comes, usually in spring and fall, it brings a profusion of wildflowers, cacti (black lace cactus), and flowering shrubs such as huisache.



CENTRAL TEXAS

One of the richest areas for wildflower displays, Central Texas includes the Edwards Plateau, known more popularly as the Hill Country, Cross-Timbers (a mixture of prairies and woodlands), and prairies to the north. Primarily an area of oak woodlands and junipers, the scenic Hill Country is rich with limestone cliffs, granite outcrops and hidden springs that create diverse habitats for wildflowers. Favorites such as bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, winecups, Indian blanket and lemonmint carpet the fields with color. The prairies of North Central Texas include many prairie wildflowers such as purple coneflower, Englemann's daisy and butterfly weed interspersed among the native grasses.



TEXAS PANHANDLE

The Texas Panhandle combines the vegetational areas of the Rolling and High Plains, which are the southernmost extension of the Great Plains of the United States. The Rolling Plains consist of juniper woodlands and mid-grass prairies, while the High Plains are primarily short grasses. Much of the Panhandle has been converted to cropland and ranches. Sand sagebrush and honey mesquites, along with buffalo grass, various species of grama grass, and little bluestem dominate the natural landscape. Wildflowers such as gayfeather, yucca and winecups add touches of color in spring and fall.



WEST TEXAS

West Texas, primarily the Trans-Pecos zone, is a land of desert and mountains. Annual rainfall can be as little as eight inches. Most canyons, wooded mountains, and desert shrublands offer myriad habitats for unusual wildflowers. Spring rains transform this arid region into a riot of color, as Chisos bluebonnets, desert marigolds and a variety of cacti bloom. A second flowering period occurs in the fall, following late summer rains.

