



SPRINGTIME IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Let's go Wild!



WHERE TO SEE AND WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT TEXAS WILDFLOWERS

Important things to know about

WILDFLOWERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Bluebonnets have Been the State Flower of Texas Since 1901

About Wildflower Growing Season

No two wildflower seasons are the same. These picky bloomers rely on a combination of rainfall, sunshine, and temperature to bloom. Generally, they start blooming in the last week of March and peak by the first or second week of April.

Be Safe in the Wildflower Fields

1. There can be snakes in the flower fields, so always watch your step!
2. Trespassing on private property to get a bluebonnet photo is illegal. Don't do it!
3. Find safe locations to pull off the road for photos. Highways are for motor vehicles, not crossing by foot.

Wildflower Etiquette

1. Never pick the wildflowers! While it is not against the law, it robs the rest of the community of enjoying the flowers. Additionally, picking flowers hinders their "going to seed", meaning they won't grow back the following year. The next year's crop depends on this natural germination process.
2. When taking a photo of amongst the flowers, don't trample or smash the blooms. Find a bare patch among a flower field where the model can pose and stoop down low to take the photo. Leave the field as it was for other viewers.

How to Successfully Plant Your Own Bluebonnet Garden

Bluebonnets grow best in soils that are alkaline, moderate in fertility, and drain well. Full sun is also required for best growth. Seeds may be planted September 1 through December 15; however, for best results, plant seeds no later than mid-November.

Meet the Natives

THE TEXAS TOP 20

Texas serves as home to some 2,700 wildflower species. Here are the most common wildflowers you'll see in Texas during spring and summer.

- Texas Bluebonnet
- Texas Indian Paintbrush
- Firewheel
- Pink Evening Primrose
- Horsemint
- Drummond Phlox
- Mexican Hat
- Winecup
- Black-eyed Susan
- Prairie Verbena
- Blackfoot Daisy
- Texas Spiderlily
- White Pricklypoppy
- Rain Lily
- Huisache Daisy
- Plains Coreopsis
- Plains Wild Indigo
- Engelmann Daisy
- Antelope Horns
- Texas Thistle



Black-eyed Susan



Antelope Horns / Spider Milkweed



Texas Thistle

THE TOP 10 *Wildflower Hot Spots*

It's hard to predict where wildflowers will grow, but these locations and experiences are known for top quality wildflower enjoyment during the annual growing season.

1. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin
www.wildflower.org
This iconic Texas gem is home to nearly 900 species of native Texas plants including hundreds of species of native wildflowers, boasts the kind of floral diversity that can't be observed from the car window. Fees apply, check the website for hours of operation and special events.

2. St. Edward's University

3001 South Congress, Austin
www.stedwards.edu
Beautiful bluebonnets can be found decorating this 160-acre university campus in the heart of the city. Sweet scents of mountain laurels fill the air and the Austin skyline forms an iconic backdrop for photos with an extra pleasant atmosphere.

3. Wildseed Farms

100 Legacy Dr, Fredericksburg
www.wildseedfarms.com
A Texas Hill Country staple for over 35 years and the nation's largest working wildflower farm. Walk the trails, shop at Blossoms Boutique, Lantana Nursery, and enjoy the house produced wine or a beer at the Brewbonnet Biergarten.

4. Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

16710 Ranch Rd 965, Fredericksburg
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/enchanted-rock>
See the flowers from the top of the 425-foot pink granite batholith and along 11 miles of trails.

5. Marble Falls, Texas Home of the Bluebonnet Cafe

211 US-281, Marble Falls
www.bluebonnetcafe.net
A Texas Hill Country icon since 1929. Jump in the car and head an hour northwest of Austin to Marble Falls for a classic American dining experience and a memorable wildflower watching excursion. Marble Falls is so notorious for wildflowers that the city created mapped driving itineraries to see the different floral varieties. See the itineraries at: visitmarblefalls.org/assets/uploads/documents/Marble-Falls-Wildflower-Scenic-Route-Map.pdf

6. Burnet, Texas The "Bluebonnet Capital of Texas"

www.cityofburnet.com
Make the drive to Burnet, Texas, which is officially designated as the "Bluebonnet Capital of Texas" by the Texas State Legislature since 1981. Burnet is widely known as a bluebonnet hot spot thanks to its surrounding roadsides and pastures blanketed in blue during the peak of the season. **Pro Tip:** Time your trip with Burnet's Annual Bluebonnet Festival See more info: bluebonnetfestival.org

7. Muleshoe Bend Recreation Area

2820 Co Rd 414, Spicewood
www.lcra.org/parks/muleshoe-bend/
Enjoy miles of multi-use trails that truly immerse you in the Texas Hill Country. Enjoy tent camping along the shore of Lake Travis or under the shade of oak-tree canopies, and of course... wildflowers.

8. McKinney Falls State Park

5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Austin
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/mckinney-falls>
Enjoy wildflower watching among the rugged beauty of this scenic park. Listen to Onion Creek flowing over limestone ledges and splashing into pools. Follow trails winding through the Hill Country woods. Explore the remains of an early Texas homestead and a very old rock shelter.

9. Pedernales Falls State Park

2585 Park Rd 6026, Johnson City
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/pedernales-falls>
Relax and recharge among the wildflowers surrounding the Pedernales River, just 30 miles west of Austin.

10. Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

199 Park Road 52, Stonewall
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lyndon-b-johnson>
Tour the LBJ ranch and enjoy the nature trail that winds through a forested area, passing by longhorn cattle and leading to the bison pasture at the east end of the park.