


TOUGH PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Not only have we had two back-to-back severe winters for North Central Texas but our summer has been dreadful (hot and dry). The winter of 2009 served up destructive ice storms and the winter of 2010 handed us extreme, long lasting cold temperatures and heavy snows that broke many limbs that could not hold the weight. The winter's cold took out many marginal plants for our area (we are Cold Zone 7b and Heat Zone 9) and this summer has taken its toll on many of our plants. There is just so much stressful weather that some plants can endure. This article contains information from Parker County Master Gardeners. It is our effort to share what we have learned from our own gardens and hope it will serve as a guide of tough plants that have survived and even thrived through the winters of 2009, 2010 and the summer of 2011. Grasshoppers have been a major problem especially in rural Parker County but are not addressed in this article.

It will be noted if no additional irrigation has been given to a plant. Like humans, most plants require some water to exist.

As you will see, a few of the plants perform well in different degrees of light for some of the Master Gardeners. You will find some plants on more than one list.

When you see this:  Tip:

A Parker County Master Gardener is sharing a tip about the plant listed.

Shade:

Trees

Mexican Buckeye

Shrubs

Yaupon Holly

Mahonia (Oregon Grape Holly)


Oakleaf Hydrangea

Salvia Greggii  **Tip:** Both shade and sun in some Master Gardener's gardens.

Perennials

Texas Gold Columbine

Turk's Cap

Cast Iron Plant (Aspidistra)  **Tip:** The winter of 2010-2011 "burned" mine and I cut them all to the ground but they came back and even in this heat, are looking great.

Helleboris (Lenten Rose)

Bromeliads

Liriope

Ferns

Pots and Hanging Baskets

Sansevieria

Coleus

Hibiscus

Asparagus Fern



Texas Gold Columbine

Boston Ferns

Begonias

Ferns in hanging baskets

Partial Shade:

Trees:

Mexican Bird of Paradise

Redbud

Shrubs

Cotoneaster

Japanese Kerria

American Beautyberry

Boxwoods ☐ ✍️ **Tip:** I have boxwoods in sun, partial shade and shade and they all are doing fine.

Roses

Knock Out Rose

Perennials

Purple Heart ✍️ **Tip:** Morning sun.

Turk's Cap ✍️ **Tip:** Received no irrigation.

Lamb's Ear

Sedums ✍️ **Tip:** Morning sun.

Holly Fern ☐ ✍️ **Tip:** Morning sun.

Phlox ☐ ✍️ **Tip:** Morning sun.

Pigeon Berry ☐ ✍️ **Tip:** Morning sun.

Dianthus ✍️ **Tip:** I have watered these twice this summer and they are still green. There are some dead stems and when they really got stressed, I watered but they are alive and are blooming since the rain. They get morning-noon sun but are in some shade during the hottest part of the day. They stay green all winter, even in the ice and snow and did very well.

Ornamental Grasses:

Gulf Muhly Grass ☐ ✍️ **Tip:** Morning sun.

Annuals

Begonias

Coleus

Crotons ✍️ **Tip:** I usually leave my crotons in the sun but this summer, I kept them in partial shade to keep them from bleaching out.



Gulf Muhly Grass "Regal Mist"



Coleus

Sun:

Trees

Fig Trees

Dessert Willow  **Tip:** More leaves and blooms than usual.

Mexican Redbud

Arizona Cypress


Eastern Red Cedar

Chinese Pistache

Rough-leaf Dogwood

Texas Mountain Laurel

Eve's Necklace, Cedar Elm, Oaks (Live, Red, Burr, Chinkapin)

Mexican Bird of Paradise  **Tips: from (2) PC Master Gardeners:** One Master Gardener has hers in the sun and another has hers in partial shade; from another Master Gardener: Can't believe how much growth mine has put on this year. Bloomed longer than usual.

Shrubs

Butterfly Bush

Yaupon Hollies (dwarf, regular, weeping-mine are in both partial shade and sun)

Agaves

Yucca

Red Yucca

Cotoneaster

Carissa Holly


Crapemyrtles


Will Fleming Pencil Yaupon


Kidneywood


Green Cloud Sage

Spiraea 'Anthony Waterer'

Thyrallis  **Tip:** tender and must be protected in winter.

Nandinas  **Tip:** I have various varieties and they are in sun and partial shade. They are beautiful and have not missed a beat.

Vitex  **Tip:** needed watering as did our Crapemyrtle.

Rose of Sharon (Althea)  **Tip:** Is blooming right now.

Roses

Peggy Martin Rose

Perennials

Lantana

Blue Mist Flower

Skullcap

Victoria White Salvia

Zexmenia

Four Nerve Daisies

Louisiana Artemesia

Powis Castle Artemesia

Oriental Lime Light Artemisia

Blue Mist the Eupatorium Greggii

Hardy Hibiscus

Paprika Yarrow

Purple Heart

Flame Acanthus

Scabiosa, (Pincushion Flower)


Datura


Texas Gold Lantana


Purple Coneflowers


Rock Rose  **Tip:** Drip irrigation


Jerusalem Sage  **Tip:** Nothing seems to hurt this.


Black Foot Daisy  **Tip:** I love these. I had one of several that seemed to suffer a little this year. I don't water them.

Shasta Daisies  **Tip:** The plants look very lush but I haven't had a lot of blooms. They are getting more shade than usual and that may be the cause.

Firebush  **Tip:** must be protected during winter or treat as an annual.

Cacti  **Tip:** Some of my cacti were fine but others have been sunburned.


Salvia Greggii  **Tip:** Mine has not done as well this year as in the past.


Lantana, native  **Tip:** Grows between 4-5 feet tall each year. I didn't pinch it back any this year because I have more room for it than usual.

Ornamental Grasses

Maiden Grass

Hamlin Grass

Mexican Feather Grass  **Tip:** I hardly watered mine at all and it still looks pretty and green. Can't beat that!

Purple Fountain Grass  **Tip:** Loves this heat! I had to tie it up this morning.

Bulbs, Corms

Iris

Rain Lily

Vines

Trumpet Vine-Campsis radicans

Passion Vine

Coral Honeysuckle

Sweet Autumn Clematis

Sky Vine

Texas Wisteria

Annuals

Potato Vines

Cosmos

Esperanza

Short Stuff Zinnias

Moss Rose

Ornamental Peppers

Peppers

Coreopsis

Blue Plumbago

Hyacinth Bean ✍️ **Tip:** One plant is getting plenty of water when I use my drip system and the foliage is lush. Not many blooms.

Castor Beans ☐ ✍️ **Tip:** Have grown nicely and one has seeds.

Candle Tree ✍️ **Tip:** Received no irrigation.

Groundcovers

Woolly Stemodia ✍️ **Tip:** Some in partial shade and some in sun. The ones in sun are doing the best. ✍️ **Tip:** Drip irrigation.

Herbs

Basil

Thyme

Pineapple Sage

Rosemary

Lavender ✍️ **Tip:** Not as many blooms this year as last but plants look fine.

Pots

Miniature Roses.

Bougainvillea ✍️ **Tip:** My Bougainvillea is beautiful...I almost tossed it because looked so bad in June; with heat it has gone crazy.

The following is a list of plants from the Coordinators of one of the Parker County Master Gardener Association projects. You can see these at the Weatherford Public Library, 1014 Charles Street, Weatherford, Texas.



Trees

Big Pine in the new garden hasn't had a drop of water except that provided by Mother Nature and it is beautiful. Other trees that have received water and look healthy are the Yaupon in the Roo Garden and the little Live Oak in the original garden.

Vines

Coral Honeysuckle

Perennials

Louisiana Artemesia

Powis Castle Artemesia

Blue Mist the Eupatorium Greggii

Katie's Ruellia

Fall Asters

Ox Eye Daisy.

Russian Sage

Pink Skullcap

Lamb's Ear

Moy Grande Hibiscus

Samantha Lantana

Bulbs, Corms

Butterscotch Ruffle Daylilies

Herbs

Catmint

Society Garlic

Lavender

Prostrate Rosemary

Ornamental Grasses

Pampas Grass

Roses

Ann Bolin
Queen Elizabeth
Knock Out
Julia Child

DarwinShakespeare**Shrubs**Barberry

Following is a list of plants from the Coordinators of one of Parker County Master Gardener Association projects. Can be seen at the National Vietnam War Museum Gardens 12685 Mineral Wells Hwy (Eastbound Hwy 180)

All these plants have been watered with drip irrigation.

One of the best ways to water a garden is with a drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation is the controlled application of water at a very low flow over a prolonged period. It differs from conventional watering systems in that the soil is not supersaturated with water. When the rate of drip irrigation is adjusted correctly, there are no puddles of water and no runoff.

Several systems currently available in garden centers can be easily adapted to almost any garden size and situation.

Trees

Arizona Cypress
 All Oak trees: Chinquapin, Bur Oak, Lacey Oak and Live Oaks plus the original Post Oak (not watered)
Redbuds
Pecan Trees
Chinese Pistache
Desert Willow
Cedar Elm

**Shrubs**

Texas Sage (Cenizo)
Nellie R. Stevens Holly
Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Varigated Privet
Vitex, Beach Vitex
Yaupon Holly
Possumhaw Holly
Crapemyrtle
Elaeagnus
Abelia
Cotoneaster (gray)
Yucca

Salvia Greggii
Russian Sage
Trailing Lantana
Lantana 'New Gold'
Four Nerve Daisies
Blue Mist Flower

Herbs

Upright Germander
Rosemary

RosesDouble Knock Out Rose**Perennials**

Yarrow
Turk's Cap
Santolina

Ornamental Grasses

Lindheimer's Muhly Grass
Gulf Muhly Grass
Mexican Feather Grass



Now it is time to take a walk through a Parker County Master Gardener's landscape. She has added comments on successes and stresses she sees as we walk with her.

Annuals

I am very disappointed in geraniums this year...every last one of them (probably 15 or more) have died. The Begonias, Cleomes, Cosmos, Dianthus, and Petunias are barely presentable and have been somewhat disappointing. My all stars would be: Cockscomb, Gaillardia, Pentas and Sweet Potato Vines...they are still going strong.

Aquatic Plants

All plants in our pond are growing great.

Bulbs and Corms

Amaryllis, Canna, Daylilies, Bearded Iris, Oxalis, Oxblood Lily have survived, but it hasn't been the best year for their blooming. Amaryllis and Daylilies bloomed beautifully because their bloom period was before the excess heat struck. The foliage on the oxalis looks awful at the present time, but they are still alive, just look badly. A few of my oxblood lilies are blooming now, but I think I had a whole lot more last year; maybe they

will bloom later on, if not, they are dead or dormant.

Turf Grasses

St Augustinegrass had chinch bugs.
Bermudagrass had chinch bugs and some type of fungus.

Ground Covers

Ajuga, Asian Jasmine, Mondo Grass, Purple Heart (Wandering Jew), Ruellia and Dichondra are growing just fine.

Herbs

Bay, Comfrey, Scented Geranium, Upright Germander, Hoja Santa, Lavender, Oregano, Mexican Oregano, Rosemary, Society Garlic, St. John's Wort, French Tarragon and Thyme have survived beautiful. My basil was somewhat disappointing...scorched leaves in the full sun, I guess. I planted about 5 different varieties in June, and all have been disappointing.

Perennials

Black-eyed Susan, Blackfoot Daisy, Butterfly Weed, Calylophus, Cast Iron Plant, Chrysanthemum, Columbine, Leopard Plant, White Coneflower, Holly Fern, Japanese Painted Fern, Wood Fern, 'Texas Star' Hibiscus, Lantana, Lenten Rose, 'John Fanick' Phlox, 'Henry Duelberg' Salvia, Salvia Greggii and Turk's Cap have survived. I'm mostly impressed with Cast Iron Plant. The Leopard Plant has survived, but all of them have thinned out. I can see small one emerging so I think they went dormant and are coming out of dormancy.

I have been disappointed in Sedum (of all things) and Hostas. I guess the sun on the Sedum has been too intense, but this was surprising to me. Another gardener also told me he has the same problem. My Hostas have almost gone dormant, hopefully not died...I'll see next year.

Roses

Climbing Dublin Bay, Earth Song, Fairy, Julia Child, Knock Out, Old Blush, Climbing Red Fountain and Climbing Zephyrine Drouhin have survived and doing fine.

Shrubs

Abelia 'Edward Goucher', Glossy Abelia, Althea, American Beautyberry, Dwarf Burning Bush, Cleyera, Coralberry, Cotoneaster, Crape Myrtle, Elaeagnus, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Foster Holly, Frost Proof Gardenia, Mary Nell Holly, Nellie R. Stevens Holly, Sky Pencil Holly, Winter Honeysuckle, Oak Leaf Hydrangea, Loropetalum, Nandinas, Pittosporum, Variegated Privet, Bridal Wreath Spiraea and Yew have done well. I've lost one Indian Hawthorn in our front

yard; Japanese Aralia and Aucuba have also succumbed even planted in shade. I haven't lost any of my 'Annabelle' hydrangeas; however, one or two of them are struggling. I have one Variegated Hydrangea and it's struggling also. My all-star would be Elaeagnus as it has not received any additional water other than rainfall.

Trees

Arizona Cypress, Carolina Buckthorn, Cedar Elm, Rough-leaf Dogwood, Eve's Necklace, Golden Raintree (has survived without any additional water as it is planted on the vacant lot next to our house and does not get irrigation), Yaupon Holly, Possumhaw Holly, Japanese Maple, Mexican Plum, Chinquapin Oak, Live Oak, Post Oak, Shumard Red Oak, Redbud, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, Texas Mountain Laurel and Texas Ash are all surviving. The Texas Ash has been wilting for some time now, but I have no indications of it dying. My all-star would be Golden Raintree since it has not been watered other than rainfall.

Vines

Butterfly Vine, Carolina Jessamine, Clematis (haven't lost any with watering twice a week), Crossvine, Fig Ivy, English Ivy, Fiveleaf Akebia (really hardy and putting on new growth through the excessive heat), Coral Honeysuckle, Gold Flame Honeysuckle, Hyacinth Bean Vine, Japanese Climbing Fern Vine, Mandevilla, Sweet Potato Vine, Wisteria (has survived without any additional water as I planted it in a vacant lot that does not get irrigation), and 'Evergreen' Wisteria (is blooming at the present time and really looking good). My all-star would be Wisteria since it has not been watered other than rainfall.

ANOTHER GARDNER'S THOUGHTS

As I look through my garden, I have a few other thoughts: 8-27-2011

We have watered as needed and hope the city continues to allow minimal watering.

The Liriope in our garden that has survived the harsh winter and terrible summer has been our variegated variety. The Dwarf Mondo in the sun has suffered the heat the most but the regular Mondo has survived sun, partial shade and shade.

Looking at our hollies, our 30 year old Nellie R. Stevens hollies (that we have formed into small trees, 18 foot tall) are shedding leaves. Our 20 year old Yaupon hollies (dwarf, regular and weeping) are not shedding leaves. They seem to be weathering it all just fine.

We are not surprised but our Lacecap, Mophead and other hydrangeas are suffering but the Oakleaf Hydrangeas are doing well enough but they do show a measure of stress. They are in full bloom and will make it through without major problems.

We established new planting beds in the spring and the Boxwoods we planted in full sun are showing some stress but seem to be able to cope. The Boxwoods we planted in partial shade and shade have not missed a beat.

Our roses are doing well and even blooming a bit. Our miniature roses in pots have done better this summer than usual and have bloomed all summer long. They seem to be very happy.

A Bald Cypress tree in our backyard is under stress but it usually has problems during summers. They are beautiful trees but we are not in an area they enjoy. We planted it about 40 years ago and did not know at that time they were not for this area. Our Oaks (Live, Shumard, Burr and Chinkapin) are doing well.

Our Asian Jasmine has done well and continues to grow and seem happy but the English Ivy has suffered in the sun.

Many of our plants appear stressed but I feel they will suffer through and come back when the weather breaks and cooler temperatures and rains arrive.