Texas Cooperative EXTENSION
The Texas A&M University System

Earth Kind:

Environmental Stewardship Program

Plant Selection:

Using well adapted plants is one of the most fundemental elements of an Earth Kind landscape. Plants that are well adapted to your area will:

Use less water
Need less soil modification
Require little or no fertilizer
Be less susceptible to pest problems
Be more tolerant of stressful environmental conditions

Earth Kind offers a number of programs and tools for identifying plant materials that are specifically adapted to your area. The following is a brief overview of these easy to use educational resources.

Aggie Horticulture:

This comprehensive information resource provides a variety of searchable databases designed to help in selecting landscape plant materials specifically adapted to your needs. With over 500 cataloged specimens, users can choose plants based on cultural requirements (i.e. sun/shade, drainage, etc.), height, width, hardiness, flower color, and much more.

http://Aggie-Horticulture.tamu.edu

The Urban Landscape Guide:

Eight separate gardening zones have been established to rate plants on 5 important resource efficiency categories (drought tolerance, pest tolerance, heat tolerance, as well as soil and fertility requirements). A special Earth Kind Index value, ranging from 1-10, provides users with an overall estimate of resource efficiency in the landscape. Plant records also contain cultural requirements (i.e. sun/shade, drainage, etc.), height, width, hardiness, flower color, and much more.

http://UrbanLandcapeGuide.tamu.edu

Earth Kind uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.

The objective of Earth Kind is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a new horticultural system based on real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

The principal goals of Earth Kind include:

- ☑ Water conservation
- ☑ The safe use and handling of fertilizers & pesticides
- ☑ Reduction of yard wastes entering urban landfills

As your interest and knowledge in these areas grows you will have an increased awareness of the many programs, practices and activities that are Earth Kind. Working together we can make a difference in conserving and protecting our valuable natural resources.

For more information see our Web site:

EarthKind.tamu.edu

EARTH · KIND®

Texas Super Stars:

This statewide testing and release program is designed to provide consumers with plants that are extremely well adapted to the Texas environment. One of the keys to the success of the Superstar program is the quality and reliability of the plant material that is highlighted in educational and marketing campaigns. Additionally, cultural information is provided to give consumers guidance regarding proper plant care.

www.TexasSuperstar.com

Earth Kind Roses:

Earth Kind is an important designation given to select roses by the Texas A&M University Agriculture program. Earth Kind Roses have been through rigorous statewide testing and evaluation by a team of horticultural experts and found to possess the high level of landscape performance coupled with outstanding disease and insect tolerance/ resistance required to for this special designation.

Earth Kind Roses are among the most thoroughly tested, and environmentally responsible plants for the use in Texas landscapes. These roses do very well in almost any soil type, from the well-drained acid sands of East Texas to the poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays of central and Southwest Texas.

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindrose/index.html

County Extension Recommendations:

Many counties and Master Gardener programs throughout Texas have developed lists of recommended plant materials. This is extremely valuable information based on experience in a localized area. Contact you county Extension office for additional details.

See the Earth Kind Web site for more ways to preserve and protect the environment...

EarthKind.tamu.edu