Recommended Valley Shrubs Part 1

Trecul's Yucca or Palma pita (Yucca treculeana)
Flowers: Creamy-white, very showy clusters 1.5 to 2 ft. high, late winter to early spring at top of plant.
Leaves: Evergreen, narrow 1.5 ft long, sharp-pointed tips.
Growth: Fast, 1 ft. per year, height 25 ft.
Sun: Full to partial shade.
Soil: Many types, well-drained, drought tolerant
Note: Wildlife: birds, butterflies, deer and javalinas have many uses of this plant.

Mexican Trixis or Hierba del Aire (Trixis inula)
Flowers: Bright-yellow, nearly 1 inch wide, much of the year.
Leaves: 4 inches long, green, no spines or claws.
Growth: Medium, 3 to 6 ft.
Sun: Shade.
Soil: Loamy, well-drained, drought-tolerant.
Note: Very nice attractive shrub.

Mexican Caesalpinia or Retamilla (Caesalpinia mexicana)
Flowers: Many, bright-yellow, rounded clusters, much of the year.
Leaves: Dull-green leaflets, pale underneath, no spines or claws.
Growth: Fast, to 30 ft. usually half that.
Sun: Adapts to full sun.
Soil: Many types.
Note: One of the most popular native shrubs for landscaping.

Desert Yaupon or Capul (Schaefferia cuneifolia)
Fruit: Showy orange to bright-red, 1/4 inch wide, late fall through winter.
Leaves: Small pale-green clusters that fall off during drought, no thorns.
Growth: Slow, to 6 ft. usually 2 to 4 ft.
Sun: Full.
Soil: Many types, well drained, low water use.
Note: Makes an excellent tightly trimmed hedge.

Low Croton or Salvia (Croton humilis)
Flowers: White, long drooping clusters, all year especially after rains.
Leaves: Green, 3 inches long, no spines or claws.
Growth: Slow, to 3 ft. rarely to 7 ft.
Sun: Shade.
Soil: Any kind of sandy soil.
Note: Attractive to human eye, hungry butterflies and seed-eating birds.

Torrey's Croton or Salvia (Croton incanus)
Flowers: Whitish-green, clustered at leaf base near branch tips, all year.
Leaves: 2.5 inches long, pale-green above gray-green beneath.
Growth: Medium, to over 6 ft.
Sun: Partial shade to full sun.
Soil: Clay sand, gravel, caliche.
Note: A very open, straight-branched shrub, no spines or claws.

**Texas Baby-Bonnets** (*Coursetia axillaris*)
Flowers: Pale-pink to white clusters over entire plant in March.
Leaves: Dull-green leaflets, no spines or claws.
Growth: Fast, 5 to 7 ft. in height.
Sun: Partial shade to full sun.
Soil: Loam, clay, caliche.
Note: A rare plant, makes a beautiful full hedge.

**Texas Kidneywood or Vara Dulce** (*Eysenhardtia texana*)
Flowers: White, fragrant, elongated showy clusters at branch ends, all year.
Leaves: Dull-green leaflets, distinctive aroma, no spines or claws.
Growth: Fast, 6 to 12 ft. in height.
Sun: Full sun to light shade.
Soil: Sandy to caliche, drought tolerant
Note: Attractive to humans as well as birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

**Coral Bean or Colorin** (*Erythrina herbacea*)
Flowers: Large, scarlet-red clusters at branch tips, in late winter-early spring.
Leaves: 3-leaflet clusters 3 inches long, claws on branches and trunk.
Growth: Medium, 6 to 12 ft. can get to 25 ft.
Sun: Full sun to light shade.
Soil: Loamy or sandy, low water use.
Note: An extremely attractive shrub, careful placement to avoid thorns.
Beans are scarlet-red and very toxic.

**Yellow Sophora or Tambalisa** (*Sophora tomentosa*)
Flowers: Elongated, showy bright-yellow clusters, spring to fall.
Leaves: Grayish-green, soft, velvety leaflets.
Growth: Medium, 3 to 6 ft. in height.
Sun: Full.
Soil: Sandy, low water use.
Note: Beautiful, short, rounded shrub with long showy seed pods.

**Brush-Holly or Coronillo** (*Xylosma flexuosa*)
Fruit: Female plant, loaded with clusters of bright-red berries throughout year.
Leaves: Evergreen, shiny, oval, dark on top and pale underneath.
Growth: Slow to medium, 5 to 10 ft in height, can get to 25 ft.
Sun: Full sun to shade.
Soil: Many kinds, low water use, drought-tolerant.
Note: Fruit for birds. Plant has single, slender, straight thorns.

**Shrubby Blue Sage or Mejorana (Salvia ballotiflora)**
Flowers: Light to deep-blue 1/2 inch long in clusters over entire plant anytime of year.
Leaves: Oval, light-green, 1.5 inches long, very aromatic when crushed.
Growth: Fast, 5 to 8 ft., no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Well drained gravel, sandy, sandy loam, caliche, drought-tolerant.
Note: Very attractive to humans and butterflies.

(Information source: Native Shrubs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification. Native Plant Project, PO1433, Edinburg, TX)

Article written by the Cameron County Horticulture Education Committee.
Questions or Comments write to: Cameron County Master Gardeners Association, 1390 W. Expressway 83, San Benito, TX 78586-3869.
Phone: 956-361-8236 or Fax: 956-361-8289 or email: cameroncountymastergardeners@gmail.com