Recommended Valley Shrubs Part 2

**Willow-leafed Heimia or Hachinal** *(Heimia salicifolia)*
Flowers: Showy, yellow bell-shaped solitary flowers, spring to fall.
Leaves: Narrow, dark-green, no spines or claws.
Growth: Medium, to 9 ft. in height, usually half that.
Sun: Shade.
Soil: Poor drainage, clay, medium water requirement.
Note: Excellent shrub for landscapes with regular irrigation schedules.

**Barbados Cherry, or Manzanita, or Acerola** *(Malpighia glabra)*
Flowers: Showy pink in clusters over entire stem, February - October.
Fruit: Red up to 0.5 inch diameter; leaves: evergreen, no spines or claws.
Growth: Medium, to 20 ft. in height usually only 4 to 6 ft.
Sun: Full sun for best flowering, will grow well in shade.
Soil: Various, medium to well drained, drought-tolerant.
Note: A very attractive flower and fruit display, you will want this plant.

**Heart-leafed Hibiscus or Tulipan del Monte** *(Hibiscus martianus)*
Flowers: Brilliant-crimson 2.5 inches in diameter, all year after rain.
Leaves: Heart-shaped, velvety 3.5 inch long leaf, no spines or claws.
Growth: Slow, to 2 ft.
Sun: Partial shade.
Soil: Gravel, caliche, well-drained, low water use, drought-tolerant.
Note: One of our most spectacular native flowers.

**Drummond's Turk's Cap or Manzanilla** *(Malvaviscus drummondii)*
Flowers: Vermilion-red, solitary 1.5 inch long, most of year.
Leaves: Large, 3-lobed, 2 to 4 inches long, no spines or claws.
Growth: Medium, to 10 ft., usually 2 to 5 ft. in height.
Sun: Partial shade to full sunshine.
Soil: Many types.
Note: Very attractive to the human eye and to butterflies and birds.

**Black Brush or Chaparro Prieto** *(Acacia rigidula)*
Flowers: Creamy-white, dense clusters in February, reflowering sparsely later.
Leaves: Dark-green leaflets, spines 1 inch long at nodes, deciduous.
Growth: Slow to medium, to 25 ft., usually 6 to 10 ft. in height.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Sandy loam, gravelly, caliche.
Note: Appreciated by birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

**Sierra Madre Torchwood** *(Amyris madrensis)*
Fruit: Attractive black and elongated, all year if not eaten by birds.
Leaves: Shiny, attractive leaflets, wavy-margined 5 to 9 pairs plus end leaflet.
Growth: Medium to 18 ft., usually 6 to 10 ft. in height, no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun to full shade.
Soil: Loam, low water use, drought-tolerant.
Note: A most attractive native plant foliage, crush the leaf for citrus scent.

**Chapotillo or Texas Torchwood** (*Amyris texana*)
Fruit: Shiny- black and elongated, all year if not eaten by birds.
Leaves: Small, evergreen, shiny, and citrus-scented.
Growth: Medium to 6 ft., no spines or claws.
Sun: Shade to full sun.
Soil: Loam, sandy and other soils, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Birds are attracted to the fruit.

**Cenizo or Texas Ranger or Purple Sage** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*)
Flowers: Very showy, pale-violet to purple, white or pink, appear after rainfall.
Leaves: Small, evergreen, ash-gray or green.
Growth: Fast, to 12 ft., usually 5 to 8 ft. no spines or claws.
Sun: Sun, green variety forms will tolerate shade.
Soil: Sandy, gravelly, well drained, low water use, drought tolerant, green variety will withstand regular irrigation.
Note: Excellent shrub, takes pruning well, but prune as a rounded mound, no straight sides or plant will lose leaves and become leggy.

**Chilipiquin or Bird Pepper** (*Capsicum annum*)
Flowers: Small, white, somewhat showy, throughout year.
Fruit: Small, bright-green turning to red, pungent peppers.
Growth: Fast, to 7 ft., usually half that, no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Loamy, medium water use, will withstand regular irrigation.
Note: All peppers are derived from this species. Good to eat, birds loves these peppers.

**White Brush or Chaparro Blanco** (*Aloysia gratissima*)
Flowers: Showy, small, white flowers in elongated cluster most of year.
Leaves: Small, vanilla-scented, will drop leaves in severe drought.
Growth: Fast, to 15 ft., usually half that, no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: All kinds, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Attractive plant to butterflies and in the landscape, profusely flowers.

**Tamaulipian Fiddlewood or Negrito** (*Citherexylum berlandieri*)
Flowers: White, densely clustered spikes, February through summer, pleasantly fragrant.
Fruit: Showy, shiny, fleshy, yellow to orange to red to black most of year.
Growth: Fast, to 27 ft., usually 6 to 10 ft., no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun to light shade.
Soil: All kinds, medium water use, does well in irrigated landscapes.
Note: Wonderful tall, dense hedge with attractive leaves, flowers and fruit.

**Texas Lantana or Hierba de Cristo** *(Lantana horrida)*
Flowers: Rounded heads of red, orange, yellow flowers nearly all year.
Fruits: Fleshy, shiny, dark-blue to black, edible.
Growth: Fast, to 6 ft., usually half that, occasionally prickly.
Sun: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Sandy or loamy soils, well drained, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Attractive leaves, fruit and flowers to humans, birds and butterflies.

**Desert Lantana or Hierba Negra or Negrita** *(Lantana macropoda)*
Flowers: Rounded heads of white or pink with yellow centers all year after rain.
Fruits: Fleshy, shiny, dark-blue to black, edible.
Growth: Medium to 3 ft., no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun.
Soil: Gravely, caliche, low water use, well drained, drought tolerant.
Note: Uncommon small flowering shrub, attractive to butterflies.

**Oregano or Redbud Lippia** *(Lippia graveolens)*
Flowers: Fragrant, creamy-white to yellowish clusters, throughout year.
Leaves: Small, light-green, very aromatic.
Growth: Medium to 3 ft., no spines or claws.
Sun: Full sun to light shade.
Soil: Caliche to rocky, most all soils, low water use, drought tolerant.
Note: Use as oregano in cooking, attractive to butterflies.

(Source: *Native Shrubs of the lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification*, by the Native Plant Project P.O. Box 1433, Edinburg, TX)

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