

## Recommended Valley Shrubs Part 2

### **Willow-leaved 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-leaved 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, gravely, 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** (*Citharexylum 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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