

**Common Plants of Riparian Areas - North Central Texas
With Wetland Indicator (WI) and Draft Stability Rating (SR)**

Sedges / Grasses	WI	SR	Forbs	WI	SR	Woody	WI	SR
Spikerushes (most)	OBL	6/7	Water willow	OBL	8	Buttonbush	OBL	8
Emory sedge	OBL	9	Scouring rush	OBL	7	Indigobush amorpha	OBL	7
Sedges (most)	OBL	7/8	Marsh fleabane	OBL	5	Overcup oak	OBL	7
Sawgrass	OBL	9	Water primrose	OBL	3	Water hickory	OBL	7
Rice cutgrass	OBL	5	Watercress *	OBL	3	Swamp privet	OBL	7
Southern wild rice	OBL	9	Marsh aster	OBL	3	Willow oak	FACW	6
Water bentgrass *	OBL	5	Arrowhead	OBL	3	River birch	FACW	6
Cattail	OBL	9	Water hyssop	OBL	3	Black willow	FACW	7
Bulrushes (most)	OBL	9	Pennywort	OBL	3	Sandbar willow	FACW	7
Rush (most)	OBL	6	Monkeyflower	OBL	3	Green ash	FACW	6
Knotgrass	FACW	6	Cardinalflower	FACW	5	Saltcedar *	FACW	7
Hairyseed paspalum	FACW	6	Tall aster	FACW	5	Possomhaw	FACW	6
Bushy bluestem	FACW	5/6	Spiny aster	FACW	8	Box elder maple	FACW	6
Flatsedges (most)	FACW	5/6	Large buttercup	FACW	6	Eastern cottonwood	FAC	7
Inland saltgrass	FACW	6	Bog-hemp	FACW	5	Water oak	FAC	6
Common reed	FACW	9	Smartweed (most)	FACW	3	Shumard red oak	FAC	6
Barnyard grass	FACW	6	Dock (most)	FACW	3/4	Dewberry	FAC	4
Florida paspalum	FACW	4	Swamp milkweed	FACW	3	Sycamore	FAC	6
Winter bentgrass	FACW	5	Mint *	FACW	3	Pecan	FAC	6
Junglerice *	FACW	4	Smallhead sneezeweed	FACW	3	Little walnut	FAC	6
Rabbitsfoot grass *	FACW	3	Sesbania	FACW	3	Roosevelt baccharis (B. neglecta)	FAC	6
Carolina canarygrass *	FACW	3	Missouri violet	FACW	3	Japanese honeysuckle *	FAC	5
Wetland sprangletops	FACW	4	Late boneset	FAC	5	American elder	FAC	6
Switchgrass	FAC	9	Frogfruit	FAC	4	Roughleaf dogwood	FAC	6
Eastern gammagrass	FAC	9	Joe pye weed	FAC	4	Sugar hackberry	FAC	5
Wildrye	FAC	5/6	Giant ragweed	FAC	3	American elm	FAC	6
White tridens	FAC	5	Annual sumpweed	FAC	3	Cedar elm	FAC	6
Vine-mesquite	FAC	6	Brazilian verbena *	FAC	4	Slippery elm	FAC	6
Lindheimer muhly	FAC	7	Tall goldenrod	FACU	7	Bur oak	FAC	6
Western wheatgrass	FAC	7	Common ragweed	FACU	2	Chinquapin oak	FAC	6
Dallisgrass *	FAC	7	Frostweed	FACU	6	Virginia-Creeper	FAC	4
Broad-leaf wood-oats	FAC	5	Maximilian sunflower	FACU	6	Honey locust	FAC	6
Knotroot bristle grass	FAC	5	Heath aster	FACU	5	Waffer ash (Ptelea)	FAC	6
Big sacaton	FAC	9	Illinois bundleflower	FACU	4	Sweet gum	FAC	6
Alkali sacaton	FAC	7	Carolina snailseed	FACU	4	Green briar	FAC	5
Deergrass	FAC	8	Clammyweed	FACU	3	Rusty blackhaw	FACU	6
Giant reed *	FAC	9	Western ragweed	UPL	5	Live oak	FACU	6
Buffalograss	FACU	3	Field ragweed	UPL	5	Netleaf hackberry	FACU	5
Indiangrass	FACU	7	Mexican sagewort	UPL	5	Red mulberry	FACU	6
Little bluestem	FACU	5	Pigeonberry	UPL	3	Winged elm	FACU	6
Johnsongrass *	FACU	6				Mesquite	FACU	5
Bermudagrass *	FACU	6				Western soapberry	FACU	6
Big sandbur	FACU	7				Bumelia	FACU	6
Southwestern bristle	UPL	5				Black walnut	FACU	6
Bulb panicum	UPL	8				Desert willow	FACU	6
Texas wingegrass	UPL	5				Elbowbush	FACU	5
Texas bluegrass	UPL	6				American beauty-berry	FACU	4
Purpletop tridens	UPL	5				Coralberry	FACU	4
King Ranch bluestem *	UPL	5				Eastern red cedar	FACU	6
Creeping muly	UPL	6				Osage Orange	UPL	6
						Whitebrush	UPL	6
						Mexican persimmon	UPL	5
						Chinese privet *	UPL	5
						Juniper	UPL	5
						Fourwing saltbush	UPL	4

WI - Wetland Indicator Categories
(Region 6 USFWS)

OBL *Obligate Wetland*
almost always occur in wetlands.

FACW *Facultative Wetland*
Usually occur in wetlands;
67-99% probability.
Occasionally occur in non wetlands.

FAC *Facultative*
Equally likely to occur in wetlands and
non wetlands.

FACU *Facultative Upland* Usually
occur in non wetlands;
67-99% probability;
Occasionally occur in wetlands.

UPL *Obligate Upland* species;
almost always occur in non wetlands

***Indicates Introduced Species**

SR - Stability Ratings (Draft) on a scale of 1 – 10. Based on USFS GTR-47, by Al Winward. Bare ground has a SR of 1. Anchored rock or logs have a SR of 10. A SR of 7 in high gradient (>0.3% slope) streams or a SR of 6 in low gradient (<0.3% slope) streams is considered the minimum for acceptable bank stability.

Adapted by Ricky.Linex@tx.usda.gov
from Common Plants of Riparian Areas
– Central and Southwestern Texas by
Steve Nelle

What is a Functional Creek?

Creeks and riparian areas function properly when there is:
Adequate Vegetation, Landscape formations, or Large wood to:

- Dissipate stream energy
 - Protect banks / stabilize channel
 - Reduce erosion
 - Slow the velocity of floodwaters
 - Sediment dropped
 - Sediment trapped, and stabilized
 - Build floodplains
 - Provide floodwater retention
 - Enlarge riparian sponge
 - Improve groundwater recharge
 - More water for sustained base-flow

Results:

- Improved water quality
- Sustained flow over time
- Increased forage for livestock
- Excellent fish and wildlife habitat

How:

- Smaller pastures; Rotational grazing
- Riparian pastures; Abbreviated grazing periods; Long rest periods
- Off site water for livestock; Off site salt, minerals and feeding
- Retain tall dense vegetation with good stabilizing root mass
- Reduced human traffic, Limited mowing, Light grazing

Key Points:

- Slow the water down with dense vegetation
- Keep water on the land longer
- Think Water-catchment, not Water-shed