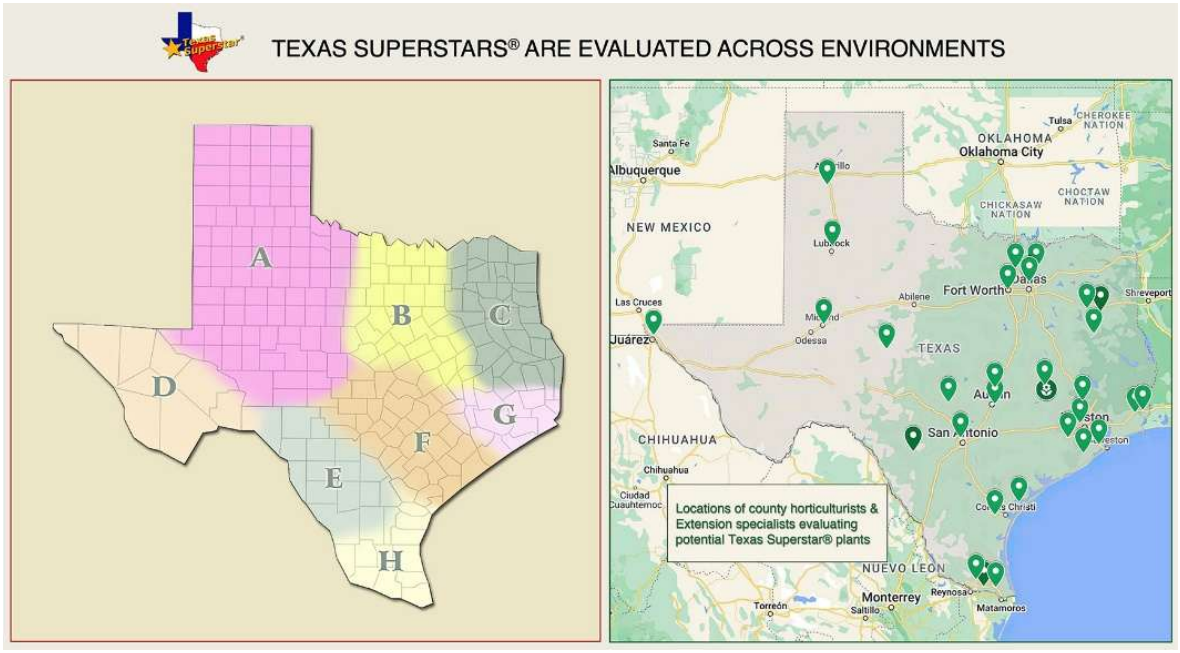
What makes a plant a Texas Superstar®?

Plants designated as Texas Superstars® go through an extensive testing process in a variety of ecoregions throughout Texas. Testing includes all four seasons as well as varying rainfall amounts. The plant experts involved in testing include:

- Texas A&M AgriLife
- Texas Tech University
- County AgriLife Extension horticulturists
- The Texas Nursery and Landscape Association and their member plant producers
- Texas Department of Agriculture



For more detailed information regarding the selection process check out https://texassuperstar.com/about-us/selecting-superstars/

When choosing your Texas Superstar® plants things to consider include:

- Location
  - Sunny or Shady
  - Wet or Dry
  - Some combination of these
- Level of Maintenance – how much work do you want to commit to it?
- Soil Quality – It is always a good idea to take soil samples and submit them prior to amending an area for planting.
  - For instructions on taking and sending in samples with appropriate paperwork and associated fees check out https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/
  - Review your results and amend as advised prior to planting

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- Type of plant – for a listing with specific plant information and requirements check out https://texassuperstar.com/texas-superstar-plants/ . These pages provide the best information for when to plant, special notes, suggested uses, plant type, size, and best practices to keep it thriving.
    - Annual
    - Perennial
    - Per-Annual
    - Woody Shrubs
    - Trees



Figure 1: Rockrose (Pavonia lasiopetala)

As plants that do make the Texas Superstar® list are specifically chosen for their pest resistance and adaptability, pest problems should be minimal. But if you do experience problems you can submit samples to The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab (https://plantclinic.tamu.edu/) for possible disease issues or, if it may be insects, https://askanentomologist.tamu.edu/ may be helpful in identifying the problem.

Your Montgomery County Master Gardeners are also available to answer your horticulture questions. https://mcmga.com/garden-helpdesk-2/



Figure 2: Turk's Cap

It may seem like a lot to do on the front end when all you want is to put some plants in the ground and enjoy the beauty. Taking time to consider things like soil testing, planning and matching plant(s) to the correct location and considering the needs of the plants (similar needs together) will help establish a healthy garden for years to come.

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