



The Texas Shakespeare Garden
 Plants from the Bard that You Can Grow in Texas
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William Shakespeare was a poet, playwright and actor who is widely considered to be one of the greatest and most prolific writers in history of the English language. Over the course of his works, he mentions over 175 plants! Modern gardeners can use Shakespeare's love of flowers and herbs to inspire their own designs.

Herbs:

Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) – Evergreen tree; full sun to part sun; 12-40' t x 12-40' w; blooms spring with greenish-yellow inconspicuous flowers; dark purple berries follow. L.O.F.: Reward of merit; Glory
 "Upon your sword sit Laurel, victory and smooth success bestrewed beneath your feet." - *Antony & Cleopatra*

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*, *F. vulgare* 'Purpureum') – Short-lived perennial; full sun; 36-48" t x 12-24" w; blooms yellow in summer; gray-green edible seeds follow. L.O.F.: Worthy of praise; Flattery
 "Because their legs are both of a bigness...(they) eat conger and FENNEL." - *Henry IV, Part I*

Lavender (*Lavendula spp.*) – Annual or perennial, depending on variety; full sun to part sun; 12-36" t x 12-36" w; blooms lavender-blue, pink or (rarely) white spring through summer. L.O.F.: Devotion; Luck; Loyalty; Acknowledgement
 "Here's flowers for you; Hot Lavender, mints, savory, marjoram." - *A Winter's Tale*

Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*) – Perennial; full sun; 12-18" t x 12-18" w; blooms white in summer. L.O.F.: Maidenly innocence; blushing
 "Indeed, sir, she was the sweet Marjoram of the salad, Or rather the Herb-of-grace." - *All's Well that Ends Well*

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) – Evergreen sub-shrub (upright and creeping varieties); full sun; 24-72" t x 36-60" w., depending on variety; blooms blue or white in spring. L.O.F.: Remembrance; Loyalty; Fidelity
 "There's Rosemary that's for remembrance; pray love remember." - *Hamlet*

Rue (*Ruta graveolens*) – Evergreen sub-shrub; full sun to part sun; 1-8' t x 1-5' w, depending on variety; blooms yellow in summer. L.O.F.: Disdain; Grief; Virtue; Repentance
 "Here did she fall a tear; here in this place I'll set a bank of Rue, sour Herb of Grace." - *Richard II*

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) – Evergreen perennial; full sun; 6-12" t x 6-12" w; blooms white in summer. L.O.F.: Thriftiness; Happiness; Courage
 "I know a bank where the wild Thyme blows..." - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Winter Savory (*Satureja montana*) – Evergreen perennial; full sun; 6-12" t x 8-12" w; blooms white or pink in fall. L.O.F.: Interest; Spiciness
 "Here's flowers for you; Hot Lavender, mints, savory, marjoram." - *A Winter's Tale*

Flowers:

Calendula / Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) – Cool season, re-seeding annual; full sun to part sun; 18" t x 12" w; blooms yellow, orange or cream in spring and fall. L.O.F.: Sacred affections; Joy; Remembrance; Grief
 "Her eyes, like Marigolds, had sheathed their light,
 And canopied in darkness sweetly lay.
 Till they might open to adorn the day." *Lucrece*

Columbine (*Aquilegia spp.*) – Perennial; full sun to part sun; 6-12" t x 6-24" w; blooms in various colors in spring. L.O.F.: Folly; Fortitude, Courage
 "I am that flower, that mint, that Columbine." *Love's Labour's Lost*

Daffodil (*Narcissus spp.*) – Perennial; full sun is best, part shade is okay; size specific to variety; blooms yellow, white, orange and combinations spring. L.O.F.: Regard, Chivalry; Unrequited Love; Purity

“Daffodils, That come before the swallow dares,
and take the winds of March with beauty.” *The Winter’s Tale*

Dianthus (*Dianthus spp.*) – Annual, perennial or biennial depending on variety; full sun to part shade; 4-26” t x 4-24” w; blooms, pink, salmon, red, or white spring through fall depending on variety. L.O.F.: Gallantry

“...I am the very Pink of courtesy...” *Romeo and Juliet*

Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) – Annual or perennial depending on variety; full sun; size specific to variety; blooms in many colors summer through fall depending on variety. L.O.F.: Innocence, Chastity, Humility

“Daisies, smell-less, but most quaint...” *Two Noble Kinsmen*

Pansy (*Viola spp.*) – Annual or perennial depending on variety; full sun to part sun; 4-6” t x 4-6” w; blooms in a variety of colors fall to spring. L.O.F.: Thoughts; Remembrance; To Consider

“There is pansies –that’s for thoughts.” *Hamlet*

Poppy (*Papaver spp.*) – Annual or short-lived perennial; full sun to part sun; size specific to variety; average height 2-4’; blooms in a variety of colors spring to summer. L.O. F: Silence, Consolation, Sleep

“Not Poppy nor mandragora, Not all the drowsy syrups of the world shall ever
medicine thee to that sweet sleep which thou ownedst yesterday.” *Othello*

Rose (*Rosa spp.*) – Perennial; full sun; size specific to variety; blooms in various colors summer to fall. L.O.F.: Love

“What’s in a name?”

That which we call a Rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” *Romeo & Juliet*

Shakespeare uses common names almost exclusively as his writings were before the advent of botanical nomenclature. Here are more of the plants mentioned in his writings that you can grow successfully in North Texas:

Flowers/Shrubs - Briars, *Smilax spp.*; Cowslip/Oxslip, *Primula veris*; Fern, *Polypodiopsida spp.*; Flag, *Iris pseudacorus*; Honeysuckle, *Lonicera spp.*; Ivy, *Hedera spp.*; Larkspur, *Consolida spp.*; Lily, *Lilium spp.*; Mistletoe, *Phoradendron serotinum*; Quince, *Chaenomeles spp.*; Violet, *Viola spp.*; Yew, *Taxus spp.*

Herbs - Bay Laurel, *Laurus nobilis*; Burnett, *Sanguisorba minor*; Cardoon, *Cynara cardunculus*; Garlic, *Allium sativum*; Ginger, *Zingiber officinale*; Hyssop, *Hyssopus officinalis*; Mint, *Mentha spp.*; Parsley, *Petroselinum crispum*;

Vegetables/Fruit - Beans, *Phaseolus spp.*; Blackberries, *Rubus spp.*; Cabbage, *Brassica spp.*; Carrot, *Daucus spp.*; Corn, *Zea mays*; Gourd, *Cucurbita spp.*; Grapes, *Vitis spp.*; Leek, *Allium porrum*; Lettuce, *Lactuca sativa*; Onion, *Allium cepa*; Peas, *Pisum sativum*; Potato, *Solanum tuberosum*; Radish, *Raphanus sativus*; Strawberry, *Fragaria x ananassa*; Turnip, *Brassica rapa subsp. rapa*

Trees - Apple, *Malus*; Ash, *Fraxinus*; Cedar, *Cedrus*; Elder, *Sambucus*; Mulberry, *Morus alba*; Myrtle, *Myrtus*; Oak, *Quercus*; Palm (sabal), *Sabal palmetto*; Peach, *Prunus persica*; Pear, *Pyrus*; Pine, *Pinus*; Plum, *Prunus domestica*; Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*; Walnut, *Juglans*; Willow, *Salix*

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