

supplement natural food sources and nest boxes are a good way to enhance habitat .

4. Rock walls, brick piles or stacked wood provide homes for insects, reptiles and small mammals. Use rock in landscapes. Even firewood piles make great cover!

Adapted Grasses for the Hill Country

The selection of a turf grass will determine landscape beauty, durability, water and fertilizer requirements, disease and insect susceptibility.

	1	2	3	4a/b	Varieties:
Bermuda-grass	G	2"	1	2/1	Common, Texturf, 419
Buffalo grass	E	3"*	5	0/1	609 variety is sodded.
St. Augustine	F	3"	8	1/1	Floritam, or Raleigh
Zoysia	G	2"	6	1/1	El Toro others
Ryegrass	P	2"	1		Gulf (seeded in October)

Note: 1 - Drought Tolerance rating (Excellent, good, fair, poor)

2 - Mowing height (inches)

3 - Shade Tolerance (10 - most tolerant)

4 - Nitrogen required - lbs/1,000 sq.ft.

a - spring b - fall

* - if not mowed gets about 4"-6" tall

Gardening Can Be Fun/Rewarding

A wide variety of vegetables grow in this area of Texas. **The average last freeze date is around March 10 and the first killing frost is around December 1.** This allows for both a spring and fall growing season. Most get spring fever and work hard with spring gardens that may play out during the heat of July. But with the fortitude to start in August, the fall garden is often most productive and enjoyable. Planting dates, varieties and production brochures are available at your Extension Office.

Farm Animals

Determining what type of livestock to utilize on small acreages can be challenging. Livestock are frequently the enterprise of choice for maintaining or obtaining ad valorem tax exemption.

Beef Cattle: Beef cattle production is not well suited to the small acreage land owner. A typical stocking rate for much of this area is one animal unit per 25 or more acres. Therefore, 100 acres may support 4, 1000 pound cows, assuming all 100 acres are producing forage and are grazable. Land owners must also consider the expense associated with maintaining fences, pens, stock trailers and other equipment needed in a beef cattle operation.

Stocker Cattle: Stocker cattle (weaned calves) may be an option for some small landowners. When grass is available, grazing can be leased to someone who owns stockers and is willing to pay for the right to graze them on your property. Selling grass usually requires less risk than buying cattle.

For all farm animals a **permanent perimeter fence** is recommended. Minimum specifications call for at least 5 barbed wires with the top wire at least 50" above the ground. Seven barbed wires or a 48" net wire with two barbed wires above it would be preferred.

Stocking rate is: the area of land allotted per animal-unit for the entire grazable period of the year. However, the **stocking rate is proper only** when the number of animals grazed on a given area results in maintaining or improving the range resource consistent with the conservation of other natural resources.