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

Sedges / Grasses	WI	SR
Spikerushes (most)	OBL	6/7
Emory sedge	OBL	9
Sedges (most)	OBL	7/8
Sawgrass	OBL	9
Rice cutgrass	OBL	5
Southern wild rice	OBL	9
Water bentgrass *	OBL	5
Cattail	OBL	9
Bulrushes (most)	OBL	9
Rush (most)	OBL	6
Knotgrass	FACW	6
Hairyseed paspalum	FACW	6
Bushy bluestem	FACW	5/6
Flatsedges (most)	FACW	5/6
Inland saltgrass	FACW	6
Common reed	FACW	9
Barnyard grass	FACW	6
Florida paspalum	FACW	4
Winter bentgrass	FACW	5
Junglerice *	FACW	4
Rabbitsfoot grass *	FACW	3
Carolina canarygrass *	FACW	3
Wetland sprangletops	FACW	4
Switchgrass	FAC	9
Eastern gammagrass	FAC	9
Wildrye	FAC	5/6
White tridens	FAC	5
Vine-mesquite	FAC	6
Lindheimer muhly	FAC	7
Western wheatgrass	FAC	7
Dallisgrass *	FAC	7
Broad-leaf wood-oats	FAC	5
Knotroot bristle grass	FAC	5
Big sacaton	FAC	9
Alkali sacaton	FAC	7
Deergrass	FAC	8
Giant reed *	FAC	9
Buffalograss	FACU	3
Indiangrass	FACU	7
Little bluestem	FACU	5
Johnsongrass *	FACU	6
Bermudagrass *	FACU	6
Big sandbur	FACU	7
Southwestern bristle	UPL	5
Bulb panicum	UPL	8
Texas wingergrass	UPL	5
Texas bluegrass	UPL	6
Purpletop tridens	UPL	5
King Ranch bluestem *	UPL	5
Creeping muly	UPL	6

*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.

Forbs	WI	SR
Water willow	OBL	8
Scouring rush	OBL	7
Marsh fleabane	OBL	5
Water primrose	OBL	3
Watercress *	OBL	3
Marsh aster	OBL	3
Arrowhead	OBL	3
Water hyssop	OBL	3
Pennywort	OBL	3
Monkeyflower	OBL	3
Cardinalflower	FACW	5
Tall aster	FACW	5
Spiny aster	FACW	8
Large buttercup	FACW	6
Bog-hemp	FACW	5
Smartweed (most)	FACW	3
Dock (most)	FACW	3/4
Swamp milkweed	FACW	3
Mint *	FACW	3
Smallhead sneezeweed	FACW	3
Sesbania	FACW	3
Missouri violet	FACW	3
Late boneset	FAC	5
Frogfruit	FAC	4
Joe pye weed	FAC	4
Giant ragweed	FAC	3
Annual sumpweed	FAC	3
Brazilian verbena *	FAC	4
Tall goldenrod	FACU	7
Common ragweed	FACU	2
Frostweed	FACU	6
Maximilian sunflower	FACU	6
Heath aster	FACU	5
Illinois bundleflower	FACU	4
Carolina snailseed	FACU	4
Clammyweed	FACU	3
Western ragweed	UPL	5
Field ragweed	UPL	5
Mexican sagewort	UPL	5
Pigeonberry	UPL	3

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

Woody	WI	SR
Buttonbush	OBL	8
Indigobush amorpha	OBL	7
Overcup oak	OBL	7
Water hickory	OBL	7
Swamp privet	OBL	7
Willow oak	FACW	6
River birch	FACW	6
Black willow	FACW	7
Sandbar willow	FACW	7
Green ash	FACW	6
Saltcedar *	FACW	7
Possomhaw	FACW	6
Box elder maple	FACW	6
Eastern cottonwood	FAC	7
Water oak	FAC	6
Shumard red oak	FAC	6
Dewberry	FAC	4
Sycamore	FAC	6
Pecan	FAC	6
Little walnut	FAC	6
Roosevelt baccharis (B. neglecta)	FAC	6
Japanese honeysuckle *	FAC	5
American elder	FAC	6
Roughleaf dogwood	FAC	6
Sugar hackberry	FAC	5
American elm	FAC	6
Cedar elm	FAC	6
Slippery elm	FAC	6
Bur oak	FAC	6
Chinquapin oak	FAC	6
Virginia-Creeper	FAC	4
Honey locust	FAC	6
Wafer ash (Ptelea)	FAC	6
Sweet gum	FAC	6
Green briar	FAC	5
Rusty blackhaw	FACU	6
Live oak	FACU	6
Netleaf hackberry	FACU	5
Red mulberry	FACU	6
Winged elm	FACU	6
Mesquite	FACU	5
Western soapberry	FACU	6
Bumelia	FACU	6
Black walnut	FACU	6
Desert willow	FACU	6
Elbowbush	FACU	5
American beauty-berry	FACU	4
Coralberry	FACU	4
Eastern red cedar	FACU	6
Osage Orange	UPL	6
Whitebrush	UPL	6
Mexican persimmon	UPL	5
Chinese privet *	UPL	5
Juniper	UPL	5
Fourwing saltbush	UPL	4

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