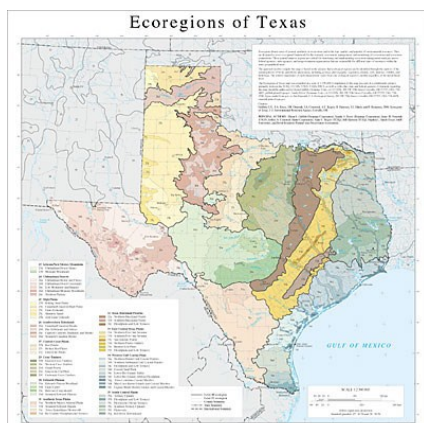


Ecoregions of North Texas

Long before the Dallas/Fort Worth area was covered with shopping malls, housing developments, and car dealerships, the native landscape was composed of endless prairies, grasslands, and native forests. Through a better understanding of our areas' ecosystems and underlying soils, we can better plan, design, and install residential and commercial landscape projects.

As you travel from East to West, the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex is divided up into three distinct ecoregions: Blackland Prairies, Cross Timbers and Fort Worth Prairies.



Blackland Prairies are found in Dallas and Collin Counties. Topography of the Blackland Prairies is gently rolling hills to nearly level areas. Average annual rainfall ranges from 35 to 45 inches increasing from west to east. The soil in these counties consists of fairly uniform dark-colored alkaline clays, which shrink and swell, with patches of gray acid sandy loams and outcroppings of Austin Chalk. Native vegetation in the area include grasses such as Little bluestem, Big bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Sideoats grama, Hairy grama, along with Mesquite, Post Oak, and Blackjack

Oak trees. Recommended soil amendments to add organic matter, improve aeration and drainage for the Blackland Prairie include pH-Balanced Compost™ or Gumbo Buster® for non-native plant projects. For projects using native or adapted species, you also have the option to till in Professional Compost™ or Clay Slayer™.

The Cross Timbers and Fort Worth prairies include Denton and Tarrant Counties with the topography defined as gently rolling to hilly with elevations from 300 to 800 feet. Rainfall averages 20 to 32 inches per year with a peak in May or June. Cross Timbers upland soils are deep, light-colored, acidic, highly erodible sands while bottomland soils are acid with textures ranging from sandy loams to clay. Fort Worth Prairie Soils have a shallow, calcareous or limestone topsoil with bedrock just underneath the topsoil layer; as a result, the area is more suited to growing grass in some areas rather than trees.

The Cross Timbers and Fort Worth Prairies Oak-Hickory forests are mixed with tall-grass prairies. The Western and Eastern Cross Timbers are major areas of Oak & Hickory, with open savannah, as well as dense brush of Post and Blackjack Oaks. Vegetation within riparian areas crossing the region include Hackberries and Pecans mixed with Oaks on alluvial soils. Within the Fort Worth Prairie, vegetation consists of grasses such as Little bluestem, Big bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Canada wild rye, Sideoats grama, among others. Recommended soil amendments for the Cross Timbers and Fort Worth Prairies include blending in Professional Compost™ for areas with acidic sandy soils. For areas with acidic clay soils, till in Clay Slayer™ to improve drainage and aeration.

Did you know...

Soil generally consists of:

45% minerals

25% water

25% air

5% organic matter

And with our clay-based black native soil you can add to the list “sticky” and “alkaline”.

As you can see, there is not a lot of organic matter in basic soil, and there are other challenges imposed upon us because of where we live.

This is why SBS has been in business since 1972 - to overcome the obstacles we have been dealt and to provide a pathway to beautiful landscapes.

Click on SPECIALS on the home page to see September Specials