



nectar plants. One of his favorites is Turk's cap: both the native spreading *Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii* and the upright *M. mexicanus*. He also recommends Louisiana irises, a group of named cultivars that are hybrids of several irises native to the heavy, wet, clay soils of Texas and Louisiana.

Other good performers for him are Copper Canyon daisy (*Tagetes lemmonii*), Texas betony (*Stachys coccinea*), Brazos penstemon (*Penstemon*

tenuis), butterfly gaura, seashore mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*), Mexican butterflyweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), and cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). John lets short-lived scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

seed itself throughout his garden every year because it blooms for months, feeds hummingbirds, and visually binds the garden together.

A boggy swale beside a small pool, above, hosts hybridized Louisiana irises, crinum lilies, and Gulf Coast penstemon. Scarlet sage blooms in the background.