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Natural Screens Provide Private Spaces

By Joe Covington

Most of us are not wanting to skinny-dip in our backyard pool, but we do want to enjoy our privacy. We want to feel peace, quiet, and seclusion among the nature in our own landscape. In order to achieve this, a thick screen is essential; however a fence of wood, metal or mortar will not provide the natural look you are striving for.

Living screens can accomplish your goal beautifully. They are prettier and usually taller than fences, can change colors and textures with the seasons, and once established, they require little maintenance!

Here is a short list of winners for Northeast Texas:

- Nellie R. Stevens Holly (evergreen) 15-20' tall x 6-8' wide
- Oakleaf Holly (evergreen) 10-15' tall x 6' wide
- Acadiana Holly (evergreen) 10' tall x 4' wide
- Compact Cherry Laurel (evergreen) 10' tall x 4-5' wide
- Eastern Red Cedar (evergreen) 10-25' tall x 8-12' wide
- Pampas Grass (beautiful plumes in fall) 8-10' tall x 5-7' wide
- Dwarf Ivory Feathers Pampas Grass (fall plumes) 5' tall & wide
- Japanese Yew (evergreen/part shade) 8-12' tall x 3-5' wide
- Eleagnus (evergreen with silvery leaves and small fragrant white flowers) 8-10' tall x 5-6' wide
- Cleyera Japonica (evergreen/part shade) 10-15' tall x 4-6' wide
- Majestic Beauty Indian Hawthorn (evergreen with prolific pink bloom clusters in spring) 8-12' tall 5-6' wide

These are just a few of the many plants that are available to help keep you and the world outside from being seen and heard!

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