

# Texas Bluebonnet and Wildflower Routes

South and East of San Antonio

Provided by [WildflowerHaven.com](http://WildflowerHaven.com)



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# About this eBook

The South and East of San Antonio Area edition provides some of the more popular routes for finding bluebonnet and other wildflower displays. It represents the collective experience of several professional and semi-professional photographers. However, this eBook is just a guide and does not guarantee that the reader will find displays of Texas Bluebonnets along any of the routes mentioned. It is hoped that the information shared here will encourage you, the reader, to safely and respectfully venture out to enjoy the wonder and beauty of our state flower and the many other wildflowers in Texas. For current reports on bluebonnet and other wildflower sightings visit our Facebook page – Texas Wildflower Report. Also see the Resources Page at the end of the eBook for other sighting report sources.

When you do venture out to enjoy our Texas Bluebonnets and other wildflowers in bloom, please travel safely and be respectful of the private property of others. We **do not** encourage nor do we condone trespassing on private property to get that annual “kids in the bluebonnets” photo or any photo. The Texas Department of Public Safety provides some important [guidelines](#) on how to safely and legally enjoy viewing and photographing our Texas Wildflowers. You are strongly encouraged to read those guidelines before venturing out to explore.

If you find this guide to be helpful in your search for Texas Wildflowers, please like our [Texas Wildflower Report](#) Facebook page and share a copy of this guide with your friends. Also, we have a large selection of bluebonnet and wildflower images in our [Texas Wildflower Report Galleries](#). Prints or licenses to use are available for most of these images. WildflowerHaven.com is a for-profit organization, but we do attempt to provide these and many other sources of information without charge. If you would like to help fund our efforts consider purchasing a print or make a small donation via PayPal.

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- NOAA/National Weather Service - <http://water.weather.gov/precip/> - Maps are used under public domain and as such are not copyright.

# What is needed for a good season?

Most of our spring wildflowers including most of the varieties of bluebonnets in Texas germinate in the fall. So, sufficient fall rainfall at the right time when soil temperatures are warm enough will help ensure a healthy crop of wildflower seedlings. It is important to understand that although fall rainfall is very important, rainfall is only one factor that leads to an above average wildflower show in the spring. Some other factors for a great spring wildflower show include:

- **Late winter and early spring rainfall** is very key to rosette root and plant growth. Usually the rosettes with deeper and better developed root systems are the ones that yield larger plants with more blooms.
- **Warming temps** in March are needed to encourage growth of plants and bloom stalks. Usually when the night-time temperatures are averaging 50 to 60 F, bluebonnet plants will increase plant growth and send out bloom stalks. Cooler temperatures in March will tend to delay the blooming period. Warm temperatures with good rainfall will tend to promote an early and longer season. Extreme heat in late March and April with less than average rainfall will promote a quick and shortened season.
- **Plenty of sunshine** during the typical flowering time is important especially for sun hungry bluebonnets. Long periods of overcast skies with warm/damp weather can encourage development of plant and root diseases. I have seen entire bluebonnet crops wiped out by root/stem diseases.
- **Less competing vegetation** - Dead vegetation from previous seasons not removed can result in excessive shading thus limiting rosette and seedling development. Often aggressive invasive species will use this tactic to push out native wildflowers. In recent years the giant common mustard([Rapistrum rugosum](#)) has taken over entire pastures resulting in little or no native wildflower growth.
- **Proper mowing/grazing** - Grass mowed/grazed in late August and again in late January (but not too low to remove seedling rosettes) will help in removing/reducing dead/competing vegetation. Roadside mowing during the prime blooming months of Mar-May can literally kill a good wildflower display. Also, pasture lands overgrazed by livestock will often be completely barren of any wildflowers. This is particularly true of pastures grazed by goats and sheep. Deer usually do not choose native wildflowers as a food source, but where there is overcrowding and fewer food sources they will munch on native plant seedlings.
- **Topography and soil:** Although bluebonnets will grow in most any soil, they tend to do much better in areas that drain well and in soils with less clay. They depend on a rhizobium bacteria that help to fix nitrogen from the air. Soils poor in this bacteria will not likely produce a good crop of bluebonnets. Rangeland is often better at producing those photographic worthy landscapes of wildflowers including bluebonnets than farmland. Farmland wildflower displays are limited mainly to roadsides if the area is not sprayed with herbicide. Abandoned rangeland or farmland without proper restoration to native grasses/wildflowers can lead to spread of invasive species like the giant common mustard plant

# Routes

The routes listed below are some of the popular ones **from past seasons**. These are only a few of the possible routes. Several of the highways listed here are high traffic roadways and often with narrow or non-existent shoulders. Other routes are along county or farm-to-market roads which could be dirt/gravel roads with low water crossings. **Caution is advised** when traveling or stopping along any of these routes. The route maps provided here are only a guide, you should also have along either a standard printed road map or mapping software.

**FM-476 west of Poteet:** - paintbrush field

**Mann RD west of Poteet:** - large paintbrush field

**Eichman RD west of Poteet:** - mixed wildflowers including some bluebonnets. One field with mixed wildflower and a windmill at Eichman RD and Ditto RD.

**FM-2504:** - small field of bluebonnets.

**Texas 97/80 north of Nixon:** Field of mixed wildflowers including some bluebonnets.

**Lake Street, Lytle** (Google Maps - <https://goo.gl/maps/vDXTpN6W91s>) : Field of Rose prickly poppy.

**Texas-97 from Floresville to Stockdale:** Several large fields of sandyland bluebonnets mixed with other wildflowers have been seen along this route in past years. Also large stretches of paintbrush and phlox have been noted.

**Texas-123 south from Stockdale:** At least one field of sandyland bluebonnets noted in the past along this route.

**CR-307 west from US 87:** Several nice bluebonnet fields along this route in previous seasons.

**US-183 south from I-10:** At least one large field of sandyland bluebonnets noted along this route in past seasons.

**Church RD and Single Oak RD:** In good season these two roads provide multi-color displays of a mixture of wildflowers.



New Berlin

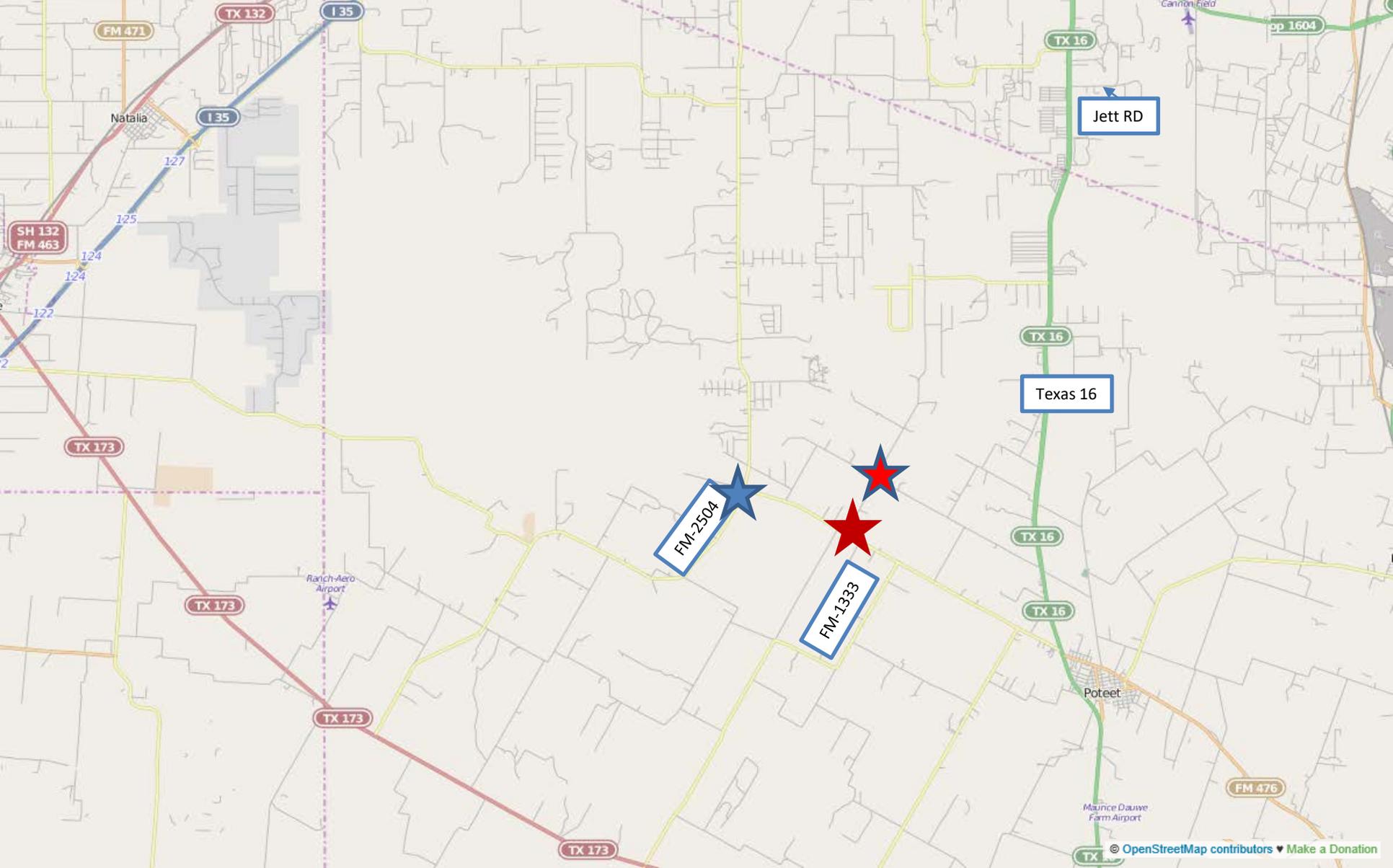
FM-775

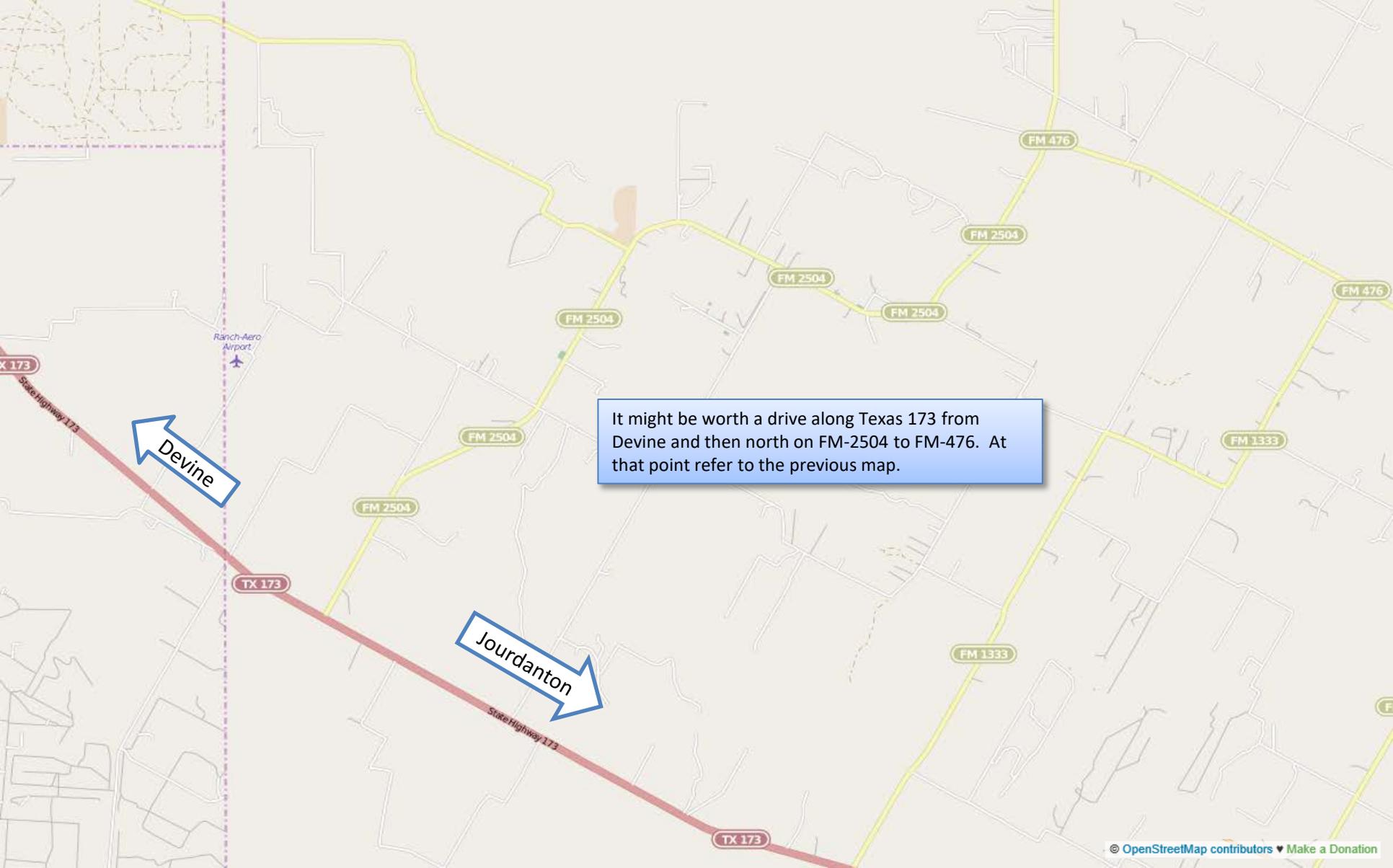
Single Oak RD

Church RD



Christ Lutheran Church





Ranch-Aero  
Airport

It might be worth a drive along Texas 173 from Devine and then north on FM-2504 to FM-476. At that point refer to the previous map.

Devine

Jourdanton

# References and Resources

## Wildflower Reports

For bluebonnet and other wildflower reports check:

[Texas Wildflower Report on Facebook](#)

[Other Wildflower Resources](#)

Special thanks to Johnny Boyd, [Texas Wildflower Photos](#), Mike Jones, and the many others on our Texas Wildflower Report Facebook page who submitted detailed scouting reports for the South Texas area.

## [Wildflower Identification Resources](#)

## Photographer Galleries

[Texas Wildflower Report](#) and [Texas Bluebonnet Photos](#) – Photos by the author, Rich Olivieri.

**Your Feedback:** The wildflower travel eBooks presented here are informal guides provided by Texas Wildflower Report and EquipU LLC. We hope these guides will help you plan your visit to view and photograph our beautiful state flower, The Texas Bluebonnet and our many other wildflowers. If you have any questions, suggestions or want to report an error please use the [Feedback Form](#). **Please travel safely and respectfully!**

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