1. Pineywoods

Topography: gently rolling to hilly. Elevation 200-500 ft. Rainfall 35-55 in./yr. Humidity and temperature high. The southeastern part is the western limit of a band of forest that extends to South Carolina. The characteristic tree of this region is the longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). The undisturbed forest is carpeted with grass and low herbs and has practically no woody undergrowth. The Area also includes part of the loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) forest, which reaches its climax in the Big Thicket in Hardin County. Tupelo (*Nyssa* spp.) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) are to be found in the swamps. The river bottom forests are characterized by hickories (*Carya* spp.), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). The northern and western parts of the Pineywoods Area are the western terminus of the deciduous forest which is characteristic of the Mississippi Valley. The characteristic trees are the shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), southern red oak (*Q. falcata*), white oak (*Q. alba*), hickories (*Carya* spp.), maples (*Acer* spp.), beech (*F. grandifolia*), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), and elm (*Ulmus* spp.). This Area abounds in showy wildflowers especially in spring and autumn.

2. Gulf Prairies

Topography: a nearly level, poorly drained plain with slowly permeable soils. Elevation: less than 150 ft. Rainfall 20 in./yr. in the west and 50 in./yr. in the east. The climax vegetation is tall-grass prairie. The principal climax plants are tall bunch grasses, such as big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*). Much of the Area, however, has been invaded by trees and brush such as mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), pricklypear (*Opuntia* spp.), and acacias (*Acacia* spp.).

3. Post Oak Savannah

Topography: gently rolling to hilly. Elevation: 300-800 ft. Rainfall 35-45 in. Ecologists have not decided whether this Area belongs to the deciduous forest formation or the grassland formation. The overstory is chiefly post oak (*Quercus stellata*) and blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*); the understory is typically tall-grass.

4. Blackland Prairies

Topography: gently rolling to nearly level, with rapid surface drainage. Elevation 300-800 ft. Rainfall: 30 in. in the west to 40 in. in the east. This is true prairie with little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*) as a climax dominant.

5. Cross Timbers and Prairies

Topography: rolling to hilly, deeply dissected and with rapid surface drainage. Elevation 700-1000 ft. Rainfall 25-40 in. This Area is made up of the East Cross Timbers, the West Cross Timbers, the Grand Prairie, and the North Central Prairies. The Cross Timbers range from open savannah to dense brush, mostly post oak (*Quercus stellata*) and blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*), with grasses as a climax understory. The prairies are, of course, grassland, but they have been invaded by brush.

6. South Texas Plains

Topography: level to rolling. Elevation: 20-1000 ft. Rainfall is 16-35 in., increasing from west to east; periodic droughts. "This area originally supported a grassland or savannah type climax vegetation. Long continued grazing and other factors have altered the plant communities to such a degree that ranchmen of the region now face a severe brush problem. Many species of trees and shrubs have increased in the area, including mesquite, post and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), cacti and several acacias." (Gould 1975). In the extreme southern part of the Rio Grande Valley are small groves of native palm (*Sabal texana*) and in the adjacent brush are shrub, vines, and herbs which are related to a more southern flora.

7. Edwards Plateau

Topography: the surface is rough and well drained being dissected by several river systems. On the east and south the maturely eroded Balcones Escarpment forms a distinct boundary, but on