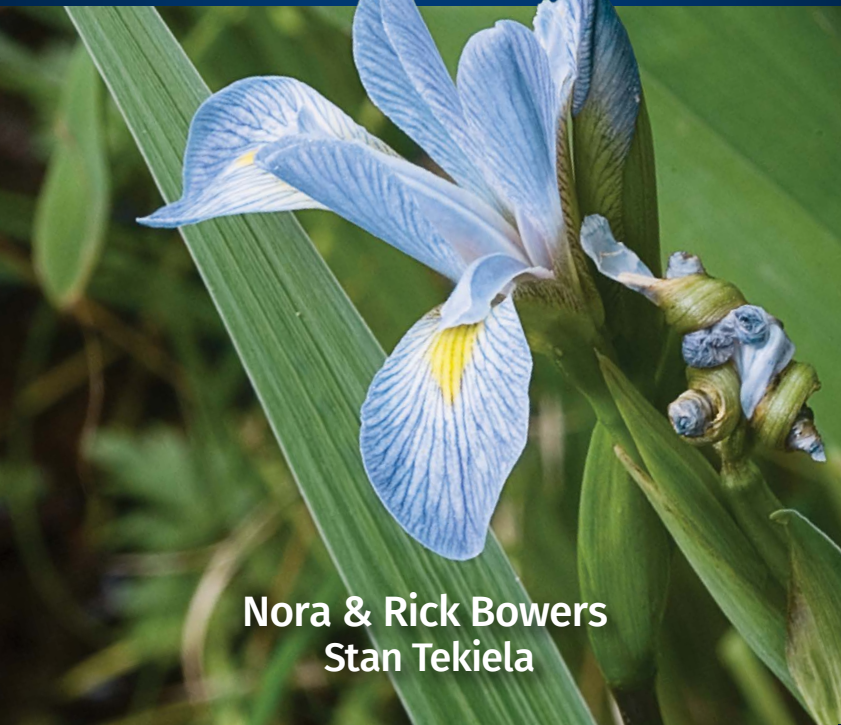


2ND EDITION

Wildflowers *of* Texas

Field Guide



Nora & Rick Bowers
Stan Tekiela

Flowers that are mostly blue pg. 19

Flowers that are mostly green pg. 57

Flowers that are mostly orange pg. 59

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USING THE ICONS

Sometimes the botanical terms for leaf type, attachment, and type of flower can be confusing and difficult to remember. Because of this, we have included icons at the bottom of each page. They can be used to quickly and visually match the main features of the plant to the specimen you are viewing even if you don't completely understand the botanical terms. By using the photos, text descriptions, and icons in this field guide, you should be able to quickly and easily identify most of the common wildflowers of Texas.

The icons are arranged from left to right in the following order: flower cluster type, flower type, leaf type, leaf attachment, and fruit. The first two flower icons refer to cluster type and flower type. While these are not botanically separate categories, we have made separate icons for them to simplify identification.

Flower Cluster Icons



(icon color is dependent on flower color)

Flat Round Spike

Any cluster (tightly formed group) of flowers can be categorized into one of three cluster types based on its overall shape. The flat, round, and spike types refer to the cluster shape, which is easy to observe. Technically there is another cluster type, composite, which appears as a single daisy-like flower but is actually a cluster of many tiny flowers. Because this is often perceived as a flower type, we have included the icon in the flower type section. See page 9 for its description.

Some examples of cluster types



Flat



Round



Spike





Roadside Blue-eyed Grass

Sisyrinchium angloisii

Family: Iris (Iridaceae)

Height: 4–12" (10–30 cm)

Flower: collection of blue flowers with bright-yellow centers; individual flower, ½–1" (1–2.5 cm) wide, has 6 petals, each with a yellow base and tipped with a small point; groups of flowers are on short stalks from longer, leaf-like stems

Leaf: long, thin, pointed leaves, ¼" (.6 cm) wide and up to 8" (20 cm) long, are often confused with blades of grass

Bloom: spring, early summer

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: moist soils, along roads, prairies, open woods

Range: eastern, coastal, southern, and central Texas

Notes: One of over 40 species of blue-eyed grass in North America, this plant is the most common of more than a dozen species in Texas. Frequently mistaken for a type of grass because of its leaves, Roadside Blue-eyed Grass is actually a member of the Iris family. Unlike some other irises, which spread by horizontal underground stems (rhizomes), this primitive iris has fibrous vertical roots. Like other irises, the blossoms are made up of three petal-like sepals and three petals. The flowers can be bluish violet or white, and the stems can sometimes be bluish purple. Historically, the young leaves were cooked and eaten to treat constipation.



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Basal



Prairie Spiderwort

Tradescantia occidentalis

Family: Spiderwort (Commelinaceae)

Height: 10–30" (25–76 cm)

Flower: cluster of up to 10 flowers, each 1–2" (2.5–5 cm) wide, with 3 violet-blue petals surrounding a golden-yellow center; flowers open only a few at a time and are sometimes pink to white

Leaf: grass-like, arching, bluish-green leaves, 6–15" (15–37.5 cm) long, clasp the stem at the base; each leaf has long parallel veining and is folded lengthwise, forming a V-shaped groove

Bloom: spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: disturbed areas, prairies, woodlands, along roads

Range: throughout

Notes: Unusual-looking plant with exotic-looking flowers. Flowers open in the morning and often wilt by noon on hot days. "Spider" comes from several characteristics unique to the plant. One is the angular leaf attachment, suggestive of the legs of a sitting spider; another is the stringy, mucilaginous sap that strings out like a spider's web when the leaf is torn apart. "Wort" is derived from *wyr*, an Old English word for "plant." Flowers change from blue to purple when exposed to air pollution, thus it has recently been used as a natural barometer for air quality.



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Clasping



Mealycup Sage

Salvia farinacea

Family: Mint (Lamiaceae)

Height: 12–36" (30–91 cm)

Flower: dense spike, 2–6" (5–15 cm) long, whorls of soft-blue flowers; each bloom, 1" (2.5 cm) long, has 5 fused petals forming a tube (corolla), fuzzy upper and 3-lobed lower petals (lips), and a white-haired, lavender-blue calyx; lower lip has 2 white stripes

Leaf: fuzzy, lance-shaped, grayish-green leaves, 1–3½" (2.5–9 cm) long, on long stalks, have coarse-toothed edges and pointed tips drooping or curling under; more abundant leaves lower on square, white stem

Fruit: brown pod contains 4 dark-brown nutlets

Bloom: early spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: limestone soils, prairies, chaparral, edges of woods, roadsides, abandoned pastures, sun

Range: southern, central, and western Texas

Notes: Farinacea is for the felt-like white hairs covering the stems, leaves, and calyx of the flower. "Sage" refers to the pungent scent, which is stronger when the foliage is wet. Hummingbirds and butterflies love the nectar, and goldfinches eat the seeds. Native to the Southwest in the wild, but naturalized in other states, where it has escaped cultivation. This wildflower is drought-tolerant and reseeds readily in colder climates, so it often is used in border plantings.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Irregular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Opposite



FRUIT

Pod



fruit



Spider Milkweed

Asclepias asperula

Family: Milkweed (Asclepiadaceae)

Height: 12–24" (30–61 cm)

Flower: round cluster, 3" (7.5 cm) wide, of pale green-and-dark-purple flowers; each bloom, ½" (1 cm) wide, has 5 upward-curving petals and a 5-part crown of purple horns tipped with white

Leaf: narrow triangular leaves, 4–6" (10–15 cm) long, are dark green with a reddish-green middle vein and have pointed tips and wavy edges that curl upward

Fruit: stout curved conical pod, 6" (15 cm) long, is green with pink streaks and has deep lengthwise wrinkles and a pointed tip; contains flat brown seeds

Bloom: spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: deserts, open areas in woodlands, fields, prairies, flats, slopes, along sandy washes and highways

Range: throughout

Notes: Pairs of conical pods resemble the curved horns of Pronghorn Antelope, thus it is also often called Antelope Horns. Inside the pod, teardrop-shaped seeds are in spiral layers around hair-like white fuzz that carries the seeds away on the wind. The foliage, which contains alkaloids, is eaten by Monarch butterfly caterpillars, rendering them and the resulting butterflies poisonous to predators.



CLUSTER TYPE

Round



FLOWER TYPE

Irregular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



FRUIT

Pod



Entireleaf Indian Paintbrush

Castilleja indivisa

Family: Snapdragon (Scrophulariaceae)

Height: 12–16" (30–40 cm)

Flower: leaf-like, reddish-orange bracts in a spike cluster, 1–4" (2.5–10 cm) long, are often mistaken for flower petals; actual greenish-white flowers, 1" (2.5 cm) long, are tubular, inconspicuous, and interspersed among the bracts

Leaf: narrow, oval, grayish-green leaves, 1–4" (2.5–10 cm) long, are covered with dense white hairs, heavily veined and have wavy edges; leaves alternate at wide intervals along reddish-green stem

Fruit: small pod-like green container, 1/2" (1 cm) long

Bloom: early spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: annual; native

Habitat: disturbed soils, prairies, roadsides, and open grassy areas

Range: eastern half of Texas

Notes: "Paintbrush" in the common name is for the resemblance of the bracts to paintbrushes dipped in paint. Pollinated mainly by hummingbirds, which are attracted by the reddish-orange color of the bracts, but get nectar from the tubular flowers. Can be cultivated from seed, but it needs to be planted near other species to absorb nutrients from their roots (semiparasitic). Also known as Texas Paintbrush. Ranges from Texas east to Arkansas and Louisiana and north to Oklahoma.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Tube



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



FRUIT

Pod



Standing Cypress

Ipomopsis rubra

Family: Phlox (Polemoniaceae)

Height: 2–6' (.6–1.8 m)

Flower: dense spike cluster, 6–12" (15–30 cm) long, of reddish-orange flowers speckled dark red inside; each flower, 1½" (4 cm) long, has petals fused into a long narrow tube and flaring into 5 pointed lobes, with slender flower parts protruding from the mouth

Leaf: feathery basal leaves, ½–2" (1–5 cm) long, are deeply divided into numerous thread-like lobes; similar densely packed stem leaves

Bloom: spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: biennial; native

Habitat: dry sandy soils, abandoned pastures, edges of woods, disturbed areas

Range: central and eastern Texas

Notes: Standing Cypress is native to the eastern United States, ranging from Texas east to Florida and north to Canada. Forms large colonies with masses of flowers in the wild. A sturdy, upright wildflower that is popular with gardeners. The feathery foliage is attractive even the first year after planting, before this biennial blooms. Flowers at the top of the long spike open first. Hummingbirds are drawn to the numerous bright, reddish-orange flowers, like moths to a flame. Drought-tolerant once established, it will self-seed if planted in sandy soil.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Tube



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Basal



Lemon Bee Balm

Monarda citriodora

Family: Mint (Lamiaceae)

Height: 24–32" (61–80 cm)

Flower: cylindrical, purplish-pink spike cluster, 1½" (4 cm) wide, made up of layered whorls of many flowers; each flower, ½" (1 cm) long, has 2 petals (lips); hood-shaped hairy upper lip is smaller than 3-lobed, ragged-tipped lower lip with pink spots; hairy, purplish-pink bracts below each flower whorl

Leaf: lemon-scented, oval, bright-green leaves, 1–2½" (2.5–6 cm) long, with coarse-toothed edges and pointed tips; fuzzy square stem

Bloom: spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: annual, perennial, biennial; native

Habitat: tallgrass prairies, rangelands, meadows, open woodlands, roadsides, sun

Range: throughout

Notes: Species name *citriodora*, derived from the Latin words for "citrus" and "odor," refers to the strong, lemony fragrance emitted by the leaves, flowers, and stems. Citronella in the candles often used in backyards to repel insects comes from the oil of this plant. Younger leaves and petals are dried and included in herbal tea mixtures. Hopi Indians once used the leaves in cooking to flavor wild game. Occurs in large stands in the wild. Bees and butterflies are drawn to the flowers, so this plant is frequently cultivated.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Irregular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Opposite



Copper Globemallow

Sphaeralcea angustifolia

Family: Mallow (Malvaceae)

Height: 3–6' (.9–1.8 m)

Flower: wand-like spike cluster, 6–12" (15–30 cm) long, of many coppery pink, bowl-shaped flowers; each blossom, 1½" (4 cm) wide, has 5 triangular petals around a yellow-and-green center; flower color can also be coral pink, orange, apricot, or purple

Leaf: wrinkled, hairy, narrow leaves; 1½–4" (4–10 cm) long, are grayish green, folded lengthwise, long-stalked, and have coarse-toothed wavy margins

Bloom: spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: limestone soils, prairies, rocky slopes, pastures, along fences

Range: western half of Texas

Notes: A stout, hairy perennial with numerous unbranched stems that bear flowers in clusters at the leaf junctions along the upper stalks. As in all mallows, the flowers have many flower parts (stamens) fused to form a slim column. The stamens are yellow in this species. Star-shaped white hairs cover the foliage, giving it a soft, grayish-green appearance. Historically, the stems were chewed as a gum. Deer graze upon the foliage. Sometimes called Narrowleaf Globemallow for the slim leaves. Found throughout the Southwest, from southern California to Kansas and south into Mexico.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



Dakota Mock Vervain

Glandularia bipinnatifida

Family: Verbena (Verbenaceae)

Height: 6–18" (15–45 cm)

Flower: violet-to-pink flat cluster, 1½" (4 cm) wide, of many small flowers, ½" (1 cm) wide; each flower looks like a gingerbread man with its 5 notched petals that are each a slightly differently shape

Leaf: dark-green or bluish-green leaves, ¾–2½" (2–6 cm) long, are hairy and deeply cut into lobes, with edges curled under; oppositely attached to the hairy stem

Bloom: early spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: annual, perennial; native

Habitat: prairies, woodlands, under pine trees, along roads and washes

Range: throughout Texas, except the far eastern part of the state

Notes: The abundant nectar of these beautiful, long-blooming flowers attracts butterflies, thus this plant is frequently cultivated in butterfly or rock gardens. Dakota Mock Vervain is hardy and drought-tolerant. Its sprawling stems result in mats covering large barren areas, making the plant a good choice for ground cover.



CLUSTER TYPE

Flat



FLOWER TYPE

Irregular



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Opposite



Caterpillars

Phacelia congesta

Family: Waterleaf (Hydrophyllaceae)

Height: 6–36" (15–91 cm)

Flower: tightly coiled, hairy spike cluster, 2" (2.5 cm) long, of densely packed, bluish-purple flowers; each flower, ½" (1 cm) wide, appears regular but is actually bell-shaped, with 5 rounded petals around protruding bluish purple-and-yellow flower parts; flowers turn blue when wilted

Leaf: sticky, soft fern-like leaves, 2–4" (2.5–10 cm) long, are deeply cut into 2–7 finely hairy, irregularly toothed lobes

Bloom: early spring, early summer

Cycle/Origin: annual, biennial; native

Habitat: prairies, along streams, roadsides, fences, sun

Range: central, southern, and far western Texas

Notes: Named Caterpillars for the resemblance of the coiled spikes of green flower buds to butterfly larvae. Also known as Blue Curls for the coiled flower clusters, which uncurl as the flowers bloom from the bottom up on the spike. There are more than a dozen similar species in the *Phacelia* genus in Texas. Plants belonging to this genus are easily identified by the tightly coiled flower spikes and protruding flower parts (stamens). The deeply lobed, hairy leaves are eaten by deer, quail, and turkeys. Also occurs in Oklahoma and New Mexico.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Bell



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



fruit



Wax Mallow

Malvaviscus arboreus

Family: Mallow (Malvaceae)

Height: 3–4' (0.9–1.2 m)

Flower: bright-red flower, $\frac{3}{4}$ –1½" (2–4 cm) long, has 5 broad petals twisted around each other (never unfurling) and long, protruding red flower parts (stamens)

Leaf: broad velvety leaves, 3–5" (7.5–13 cm) long, have 3 shallow lobes, heart-shaped bases, round-toothed margins, and long stalks; upright, woody, widely branched stems

Fruit: apple-shaped green capsule, 1" (2.5 cm) long, turns red

Bloom: spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: partly shaded damp areas on hills, woodland edges, along creeks

Range: central, southeastern, and coastal Texas

Notes: "Wax" in the common name is for the waxy appearance of the red petals. Sometimes called Turk's Cap for the resemblance of the closed blossom to a Turkish turban. The large amount of sweet flower nectar attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Flowers and fruit are edible, and the flower yields a red dye. This abundant, shrubby perennial is frequently cultivated in gardens in the South. Prune in early spring, as only the new growth sprouts flowers.



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



FRUIT

Pod



Red Prickly Poppy

Argemone sanguinea

Family: Poppy (Papaveraceae)

Height: 1½–4' (45–122 cm)

Flower: slightly cupped, dull red-to-rose-pink flowers with yellow centers; each flower, 3" (7.5 cm) wide, has 4–6 wrinkled, paper-thin, overlapping petals

Leaf: lance-shaped, bluish-green leaves, 2–6" (5–15 cm) long, with wide, bright bluish-white veins and spiny edges, alternate along the thick stem; lower leaves are deeply lobed

Fruit: narrow or broadly elliptical green pod, 1–1½" (2.5–4 cm) long, covered with spines of unequal length, turns brown and has many tiny dark seeds

Bloom: spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: annual, perennial, biennial; native

Habitat: disturbed areas, pastures, fields, prairies, sun

Range: southern Texas

Notes: This poppy is found only in Texas in the United States, but it ranges south into Mexico. A very prickly plant—the leaf lobes are tipped with spines, there are spines along the leaf veins, the stem is spiny, and the flower buds have long thorns. Because of the prickles, livestock will leave this plant untouched even when there is little else to eat. The seeds are eaten by bobwhite, quail, and doves. However, the orange stem sap is poisonous. A dye has been extracted from the flowers, which are also often used in flower arrangements.



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



FRUIT

Pod



Cardinalflower

Lobelia cardinalis

Family: Bellflower (Campanulaceae)

Height: 2–4' (61–122 cm)

Flower: tall, open spike cluster; 12–24" (30–61 cm) long, of scarlet-red flowers; each flower, 1½" (4 cm) wide, has 2 upper and 3 spreading lower petals that form a thin tube at its base; flowers alternate on the stem; lower flowers open before upper

Leaf: thin lance-shaped leaves, 2–6" (5–15 cm) long, with toothed margins and pointed tips; purplish-green stem contains a milky sap

Bloom: summer, fall, winter

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: rich, moist soils; near streams and lakes, meadows, wet ditches along roads

Range: throughout

Notes: By far one of the most spectacular wildflowers of Texas, Cardinalflower is found growing in small patches along streams and rivers. Can be grown in backyard oases near water. Its roots need to be wet, and its flowers must have partial shade as well as some sunlight. Not very successful at reproducing, perhaps because it can be pollinated only by hummingbirds. "Cardinal" refers to Roman Catholic cardinals, whose bright-red robes resemble the scarlet-red color of the flowers. Occasionally produces white or rose-colored blooms. All parts of the plant are poisonous.



CLUSTER TYPE

Spike



FLOWER TYPE

Irregular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



Arkansas Doze Daisy

Aphanostephus skirrhobasis

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Height: 6–20" (15–50 cm)

Flower: bright-white flower heads, each $\frac{3}{4}$ –1½" (2–4 cm) wide, made up of 20–40 petals (ray flowers) with pinkish-purple streaks below, around a vivid yellow center (disk flowers); many flowers per plant

Leaf: variable leaves, but usually stalkless, narrowly spoon-shaped, and grayish green; 1–4" (2.5–10 cm) long, hairy with smooth, toothed, or lobed edges; upper leaves are smaller and oblong; single stem branches at the top

Bloom: early spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: annual; native

Habitat: sandy soils, prairies, woodland edges, disturbed ground, along roads, coastal dunes

Range: throughout Texas, except the far western part of the state

Notes: One of the most abundant wildflowers in sandy prairies. Arkansas Doze Daisy is an upright or sprawling, many-branched annual with a solitary white blossom atop each leafy branch. These cheery blooms do not open until noon, thus “Doze” in the common name. The bases of the petals become swollen and harden with age. Cultivated for its drought- and salt-tolerant properties and because it attracts butterflies.



FLOWER TYPE



LEAF TYPE



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Composite

Simple

Alternate



Blackfoot Daisy

Melampodium leucanthum

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Height: 5–16" (13–40 cm)

Flower: white flower head, 1–1½" (2.5–4 cm) wide, made up of 8–13 oval petals (ray flowers) with notched blunt tips around a yellow center (disk flowers); single flower head per stalk; many flower heads per plant

Leaf: grayish-green leaves, ¾–1½" (2–4 cm) long, lance-shaped or narrowly oblong, have smooth margins or are sometimes divided into 2–6 shallow lobes; leaves oppositely attached to multi-branched stem

Bloom: summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: dry limestone soils, deserts, prairies, along roads, slopes

Range: central and western Texas

Notes: Cultivated in gardens and for erosion control in arid regions because of its hardiness and drought-tolerance, this mounded evergreen perennial has many honey-scented flower heads per plant. Its long taproot allows it to reach water deep underground. "Black" in the common name is for the color the flower parts turn with age, and "foot" describes the developing seed, which looks like a black foot at the base of the yellow center. These seeds are food for birds in fall and winter.



FLOWER TYPE



LEAF TYPE



LEAF TYPE



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Composite

Simple

Simple Lobed

Opposite

fruit



Sacred Datura

Datura wrightii

Family: Nightshade (Solanaceae)

Height: 1–5' (30–152 cm)

Flower: trumpet-shaped white (sometimes tinged with lavender) flower, 6–8" (15–20 cm) long, has 5 large fused petals with slightly wavy outer ends and a short spike at the middle edge of each petal

Leaf: arrowhead-shaped leaves, 1–10" (2.5–25 cm) long, are dark bluish green and have prominent veins

Fruit: globular prickly green pod, turns brown at maturity, 1½" (4 cm) wide

Bloom: spring, summer, fall

Cycle/Origin: annual, perennial; native

Habitat: disturbed ground, deserts, hills, along roads and washes

Range: throughout

Notes: The fragrant flowers of Sacred Datura, which are pollinated by hawk moths, open in the evening and wither a few hours after sunrise. All parts contain hallucinogenic compounds and are poisonous—just handling the plant can cause skin irritation. One of four poisonous nightshades in the *Datura* genus in Texas. *Daturas* were important to American Indians, who used them for medicinal and ritual purposes, thus “Sacred” in the common name. Also called Sacred Thornapple for the seedpod, which resembles a spiny apple.



FLOWER TYPE

Tube



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Opposite



FRUIT

Pod



Dogweed

Thymophylla pentachaeta

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Height: 4–8" (10–20 cm)

Flower: small, daisy-like yellow flower head, ½" (1 cm) wide, has 12–21 (usually 13) short oval petals around a wide, orangish-yellow center of many tiny disk flowers; each bloom is well above the leaves on its own nearly leafless stalk

Leaf: stiffly lobed, sticky, slightly fuzzy leaves, 1" (2.5 cm) long, divided into 3–5 (usually 5) thread-like lobes with pointed prickly tips; densely leafy on lower half of the stem only; the plant has many stems

Bloom: year-round

Cycle/Origin: perennial; native

Habitat: dry soils, prairies, deserts, cliffs, roadsides

Range: throughout Texas, except the northeastern corner of the state

Notes: A very common, low-growing perennial that prefers drier soil containing calcium. It is often seen growing along highways. The individual small flower heads are inconspicuous, but a yellow haze appears to float above the ground after heavy rains, when mats of Dogweed bloom. The aromatic leaves are required food for the caterpillars of the tiny Dainty Sulphur butterfly. Also known as Five-needle Pricklyleaf for the needle-like lobes of the leaves.



FLOWER TYPE

Composite



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Opposite



fruit

Gordon Bladderpod

Lesquerella gordonii

Family: Mustard (Brassicaceae)

Height: 4–12" (10–30 cm)

Flower: loose groups of bright-yellow flowers; each flower, $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2 cm) wide, has 4 oval petals that are shallowly notched at the tips

Leaf: oblong or lance-shaped, grayish-green basal leaves, $\frac{1}{2}$ –3" (1–7.5 cm) long, variable margins; stem leaves are smaller, narrower; stems often lie on the ground

Fruit: nearly spherical, smooth green pod, $\frac{3}{8}$ " (.9 cm) wide, with a lengthwise brown band and tipped with thread-like projection; turns brown with age

Bloom: spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: annual; native

Habitat: gravelly or sandy soils, pastures, prairies, plains, along washes and roads, hillsides, under shrubs

Range: western half of Texas

Notes: After good winter rains in the desert, Gordon Bladderpod occurs in huge patches on flats among creosote bushes. Eighteen species of bladderpod are in Texas. Named for the partially hollow seedpods that when stepped on make a popping sound—thus they are also referred to as popweeds. The bladderpods belong to the Mustard family, hence the peppery taste of their edible seeds and young leaves. Ranges west to southern Arizona and north to Kansas.



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF TYPE

Simple Lobed



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Basal



FRUIT

Pod



Texas Yellowstar

Lindheimera texana

Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

Height: 10–24" (25–61 cm)

Flower: star-shaped yellow flower head, 1" (2.5 cm) wide, has 5 short, oval petals (ray flowers) notched at their tips, around a yellow center (disk flowers); single or several blossoms tip the stems

Leaf: fuzzy, oval leaves, 1–3" (2.5–7.5 cm) long, have pointed tips and wavy or toothed edges; lower leaves are alternate, upper leaves are opposite; stout, hairy stem is unbranched or branching at top and dotted with red spots (glands)

Bloom: spring, early summer

Cycle/Origin: annual; native

Habitat: prairies, full sun

Range: central, northern, and southern Texas

Notes: Oddly for an Aster family member, Texas Yellowstar (the only species in the genus *Lindheimera*) produces seeds solely from the ray flowers, not the disk flowers. Thus, there is only one fruit per ray flower, resulting in five fruits per flower. After the fruits mature, the plant dies. The scattered seeds germinate in the fall, sprouting a rosette of leaves that grows slowly throughout the winter, awaiting spring to send up its single flowering stem. This kind of plant is known as a winter annual. Texas has lots of winter annual wildflowers, including Sandyland and Texas Bluebonnet (pp. 43 and 53, respectively).



FLOWER TYPE

Regular



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Opposite



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Basal



Butterfly Daisy

Amblyolepis setigera

Family: Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Height: 6–15" (15–38 cm)

Flower: two-toned, yellow flower head, 1¼–2" (3–5 cm) wide, has domed velvety centers (disk flowers) that are dark yellow, surrounded by 8–12 paler yellow, overlapping petals (ray flowers) with 3–4 deep notches at tips. Each bloom sits atop a bare stem.

Leaf: alternate, blue-green leaves, 2–4" (5–10 cm) long, can be hairy or smooth; lower leaves are spatula-shaped, wider at tips and attach directly to fuzzy stems, upper smaller leaves are oval and clasp the stems; ascending branches from a single stout, hairy stem, upper stems without leaves

Bloom: spring, summer

Cycle/Origin: annual; native

Habitat: chaparral, disturbed areas, open fields, and roadsides; full sun or partial shade, dry, well-drained soil

Range: the panhandle, central and west Texas

Notes: In the US, this wildflower is only found in Texas, but it ranges south into northeastern Mexico. Attractively erect and an eye-catching gold, this conspicuous bloom forms thick stands along roads and wide swaths sweeping up hillsides. It's commonly called Huiscache Daisy as it regularly grows in the chaparral under the huiscache bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*). Because it is so ornamental and sweetly fragrant, Butterfly Daisy is often seeded in decorative borders and meadows to attract pollinators.



FLOWER TYPE

Composite



LEAF TYPE

Simple



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Alternate



LEAF ATTACHMENT

Clasping

Wildflower Identification Made Easy

Full-page photos and descriptions make this the best guide to Texas's wildflowers!

- **200 species:** The most common and beautiful wildflowers
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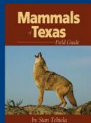
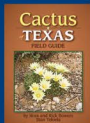
This 2nd Edition includes updated photographs, expanded information and even more of the authors' expert insights!



About the Authors

Nora Mays Bowers is a nature writer and photographer. Rick Bowers is a naturalist and a writer, and he has been leading photography and birdwatching safaris for almost 50 years. The Bowers' credits include magazines, calendars, and books on cacti, mammals, and wildflowers.

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