

The Grama Gazette

Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
Garland Chapter

www.npsot.org/garland

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Greetings Native Plant Lovers during a Hot and Sunny June!

Our weather gives us a good reason to plant natives that can take this high heat and blazing sunshine that Texas is known for. Prairie plants are still sporting some late spring blooms: Winecups, *Callirhoe involucrata*; Cutleaf Daisy, *Engelmannia peristenia*; Firewheel, *Gaillardia*; Gayfeather, *Liatris species*; and Lemon Mint, *Monarda Citriodora* to name just a few. With no extra water, the annual plants will shut down flower production and go to seed, while the perennials will slow down to revive once water arrives.

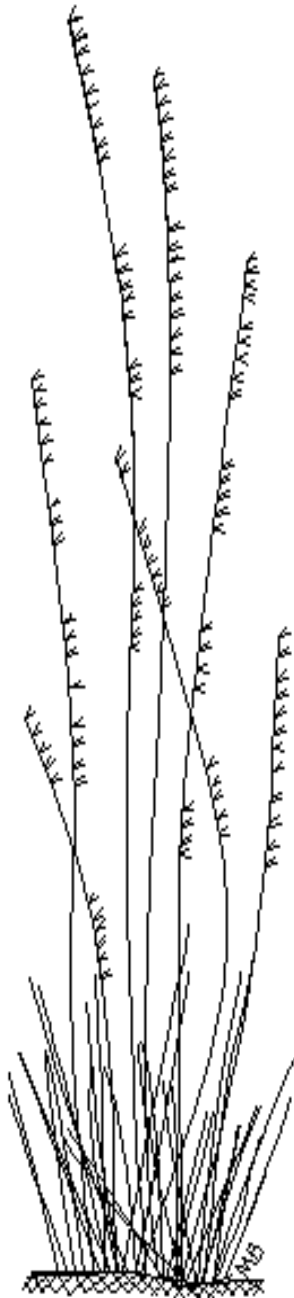
Bloomers such as Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea species*; Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*; Mexican Hat, *Ratibida comnifera*; Black-Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*; and Zexmenia, *Wedelia hispida* are just now coming into full flower. Mexican Hat, Black-eyed Susan, and Zexmenia will continue flowering as long as dead heading occurs, while the remaining ones will need extra water along with deadheading to prolong their flowers. Of course, our native sunflowers are blooming at the moment in what appears to be very dry areas,

Keep in mind that this is a good time to increase your plant holdings. Many shrubs respond to layering which is the process of pinning a low branch to the ground so it can root near the leaf nodes at ground level. When you are sure that it has rooted you may clip the rooted section from the mother and dig it up and pot or place in the ground in a chosen spot.

Another way to propagate your woody plants is to take a cutting that has four or more leaf sets from the tip of a branch. Strip off the lower leaves so that you only have one or two sets of leaves remaining on your branch. Dip the lower branch into rooting hormone, making sure to cover the areas you stripped the leaves from, if you have some. Then place your branch with the leafless end in a pot of soil deep enough to cover the entire lower, leafless part. Keep moist and in bright light and rooting should occur before the end of summer. New growth is usually a good indication in both of these situations that rooting has occurred.

I hope you all have a good summer in which you can somehow keep cool and enjoy your native plants whenever you have a chance to!

Susan Anderson
Chapter President



Sideoats Grama

(*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Enjoys full sun;

grows two to three feet tall with attractive seed heads on one side of the stem;

attracts birds and butterflies;

Is the state grass of Texas

No Meeting in June!

**Next Meeting will be in
September!**

*Please join us for our
meetings of the NPSOT,
Garland Chapter, this
year being held in*

*March, April, May, September, October
and November*

We are contacting NPSOT Chapters to share the following landscape publications--*free of charge*. Please pass this message on to help others educate their communities this spring. Thanks for helping to take care of Texas!



Please do your part to
TAKE CARE OF TEXAS
It's the only one we've got.

This spring and summer, use our **Free Landscape Publications** to educate your community on saving water, energy, money, and time while maintaining beautiful lawns and gardens:

- **The Take Care of Texas Guide to Yard Care** Helps you maintain a healthy yard, save money, and take care of our state's varied landscapes.
- **Mulching and Composting** Quick tips to save money, time, and effort and help your community by mulching and composting.
- **Managing 10 Common Texas Yard Pests** Learn environmentally friendly ways to get rid of these 10 common Texas yard pests.
- **Managing Lawn Problems in Texas** Brief guide to choosing your turf, managing your lawn, and solving common lawn problems.
- **Landscape Irrigation** Brief guide to developing a water-efficient landscape, including tips on using good water techniques and choosing irrigation systems.
- **Rainwater Harvesting with Rain Barrels** Brief how-to guide on building a rain barrel, collecting rainwater to water your plants, and saving money.

To order your free copies, email: educate@tceq.texas.gov.
(Indicate desired quantity and physical mailing address.)

Thank you for doing your part to Take Care of Texas! Sign up for monthly environmental **News You Can Use**.

This service is provided to you at no charge by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Visit us on the Web at www.tceq.texas.gov.

How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey.

Join the Native Plant Society of Texas

Membership is renewable annually and extends for a year from the date we receive your original payment. If you wish to join or renew your membership, mail this form and the appropriate remittance, to:

Native Plant Society of Texas
P.O. Box 3017
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830/997-9272

http://www.npsot.org/application/join_npsot.html

- Student.....\$15.00 Senior citizen (65+)...\$20.00
 Senior Couple (one member 65+)\$30.00
 Individual \$25.00 Family.....\$40.00
 Group..... \$50.00 Patron.....\$100.00
 Benefactor.....\$250.00 Supporting.....\$500.00
 Corporate.....\$1000.00 Lifetime.....\$1000.00

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The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote the conservation, research and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach and example.



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Nursery & Nature Store

Thanks to our host Greg and the staff at Rohde's. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Garland, TX 75041

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