

## Showy ornamental tree for part-shade to sun: Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*, *Styphnolobium affine*)

**Description:** Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*, now re-classified to *Styphnolobium affine*), also called Texas Sophora, is native to North Texas and regions south. This understory tree is relatively fast growing, usually reaching 15 to 25 feet tall. Its canopy can reach 20 feet wide at maturity. It has alternate pinnately compound leaves 8 inches long, with many individual leaflets, giving the foliage a delicate appearance. The leaves are deep green on top and somewhat paler on the bottom. Eve's Necklace is deciduous, losing its leaves in the winter.



Photos by Dorothy Brown Thetford

**Flowers and Fruit:** Eve's Necklace has intensely fragrant spring flowers that bloom for approximately 2 weeks, usually in April. Its white-with-pink blossoms resemble those of pea or wisteria; all are in the legume family. Eve's Necklace takes its name from the showy seed pods that form in the fall and remain on the plant during the winter months after the leaves have fallen from the plant. The black pods are 3 to 6 inches long, resembling beads on a string.

**Planting sites:** Eve's Necklace can be planted in dappled shade to part shade to full sun. It takes well to pruning after it is established, which can be used to shape the tree as desired.

**Watering Instructions:** Eve's Necklace will need supplemental water during the first growing season; after it is established, it will thrive with existing rainfall. It is drought tolerant.

**Comments:** Eve's Necklace is an outstanding addition as an ornamental tree to North Texas gardens. Its fragrant spring flowers are followed by the development of attractive seed pods in the fall, providing an interesting visual texture in the winter garden. Although considered an understory tree, it is a good size for smaller gardens where large trees might overwhelm the yard. Consider using it as an alternative to tall crepe myrtles.

Look for the NICE! Plant of the Season signs and information sheets on your next visit to a participating North Texas nursery. Thank you for using native plants in your landscape.