

**Perennial ground cover/shady lawn substitute:
Horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*)**

Description: Horseherb (*Calyptocarpus vialis*), also called Straggler Daisy, is native to Texas and ranges south to Central America. It grows up to 8-10 inches tall, with opposite leaves that are usually less than 1 inch long. It has a sprawling to prostrate habit. Horseherb is perennial and although deciduous, it may remain green during a mild North Texas winter.



Photos: Kathy Saucier

Flowers: Horseherb has very small yellow flowers that bloom from mid-spring to late fall.

Planting sites: Horseherb should be planted in dappled shade, part shade or full shade. It tolerates many types of soils. Avoid planting horseherb in an area where it may experience “wet feet” or it may rot.

Watering Instructions: Horseherb should be watered after planting and again every other week during its first growing season. After the first growing season, horseherb will survive with existing rainfall because of its drought tolerance.

Comments: Horseherb is an outstanding substitute for grass in those shady areas where grass is difficult to grow. Horseherb grows well in the shade and it can be mowed. Because horseherb may expand by stolons (runners) and rooting from the stems, it can become invasive (weedy!) in rich garden soil. However, it is an excellent groundcover for dry shady areas and because it can be mowed, it is finding more and more use as a shady lawn substitute.

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 landscapes.

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas Meetings are the 4th Thursday in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep & Oct, TWU’s ACT building 6:30 pm, 2nd floor.

Operation NICE! Plant of the Season – Summer 2008