

Eve's Necklace

Sophora affinis

Secondary Names:

Texas Sophora, Eve's-Necklacepod

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

A small tree to 20 feet tall and a trunk to 12" in diameter, occasionally larger, with an open, airy crown of light green foliage. Used increasingly as a landscape tree for its pink flowers and black, bead-like fruits.

Range/Site Description:

Stream corridors, moist areas, fencerows, and rights-of-way in Central Texas, mostly on limestone soils.

Leaf:

Branches, twigs, and leaves without thorns or prickles; leaves are once-compound, alternate, 6" to 9" long, with 13 to 19 oval or elliptical leaflets, each 0.75" to 1.5" long and 0.5" wide, with a smooth margin.

Flower:

Borne in drooping clusters 3" to 6" long of white to pink, pea-like flowers, each about 0.5" long.

Fruit:

A slender string of shiny, black beads, from 2" to 4" long, on a stalk 2" long, with narrow constrictions between the seeds, giving the tree its common name, Eve's-necklace.

Bark:

Twigs are green to orange-brown and the bark develops into thin, gray-brown scales and furrows on older trunks.

Wood:

Very hard, light red in color, with a thick, bright yellow sapwood; no commercial importance. Sold in the nursery trade as a landscape tree.

Similar Species:

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) has more rounded, oval leaflets and sharp thorns at the base of each leaf.

Facts:

In dense shade, this tree acts more like a climbing vine and can be difficult to identify.