

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY, 2010

EVE'S NECKLACE, *SOPHORA AFFINIS*



Eve's Necklace is named for its long black seedpods which are constricted at each seed, giving the appearance of a string of beads. These seedpods form in late summer and fall, sometimes lasting well into winter. They follow clusters of fragrant pink flowers which bloom in the spring. Eve's Necklace is related to Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), and like Mountain Laurel its seeds contain a poisonous alkaloid. However, it differs from its cousin in that it is faster growing, deciduous and it will be browsed by deer.

Eve's Necklace is native to the limestone soils of central Texas north into Oklahoma. It prefers dry, well drained soils and does well in sun or part shade. When crowded among other plants it will be a spindly shrub. However, given an open space it can develop into an attractive 15' – 30' ornamental tree with a rounded crown. Although not as well known as its relative, Texas Mountain Laurel, Eve's Necklace is worthy of consideration as a landscape plant, and can be found in native plant nurseries. Since flower color varies, it is best to select plants while they are in bloom. Transplanting from the wild is best done in the winter when it has dropped its leaves. It can also be grown from scarified seed to a six foot tree in three years.