

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

PLANT OF THE MONTH APRIL, 2010

ZEXMENIA, *WEDELIA TEXANA*



Zexmenia or Hairy Wedelia is a terrific plant for use in a sunny, dry location. It has 1" yellow orange flowers that appear from May through frost. The flowers are attractive to butterflies, and the plant is also a larval host plant to several species including the Bordered Patch. It is long lived and behaves like a small shrub, with woody growth at the base of its stems. It can get 3' tall with an equal spread. Its stems will root where they touch the ground, letting it spread, but it never gets out of bounds.

Zexmenia is a common plant of the Texas Hill Country, South Texas and the Trans Pecos region. It is usually found in dry soils in fields, pastures and open woodlands. As a landscape plant it does well in a xeriscape garden. It can tolerate shade and moisture, but blooms less in those situations and will get leggy, requiring more pruning. It is evergreen in the southern parts of its range, but will die back further north and during cold winters. In any case, it benefits from periodic trimming.

Zexmenia is moderately deer resistant. It is available at nurseries that sell native plants, and can also be started from seeds and semi-hardwood cuttings.