

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

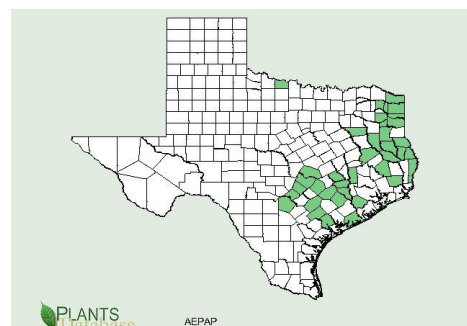
PLANT OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY, 2013

RED BUCKEYE, *AESCULUS PAVIA*

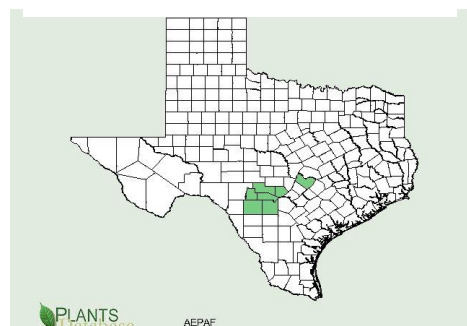


Red Buckeye (inset – Yellow Buckeye)

USDA Range Maps: Texas



Range - Red Buckeye



Range - Yellow Buckeye

There are two varieties of *Aesculus pavia* in Texas. The most common is the Red Buckeye (*A. pavia* var. *pavia*) which occurs from Central Texas east to Virginia through Florida. This variety prefers good deep soil such as is found at Palmetto State Park in Gonzales County. The yellow variety (*A. pavia* var. *flavescens*) only occurs in the rocky, limestone soils of the western part of the Edwards Plateau. Where the two varieties overlap, hybridization occurs, leading to flowers with various combinations of red and yellow.

Both make good landscape plants. The variety to use depends on the soil and moisture conditions you have. They grow as large shrubs or small trees up to 12 feet tall, and are best used as understory plants in partly shady locations. The flowers of both varieties are very showy upright clusters 6" – 10" high that occur in Spring. A characteristic of both varieties is that they drop their leaves in late summer. As a consequence they are best used where the showy flowers can be enjoyed in spring, but the plants can fade into the background at the end of summer when they go dormant.

The large seeds and young shoots are poisonous. The plants are only moderately deer resistant, and young plants especially should be protected.