**Sophora affinis: Eves-Necklace**

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**Introduction**

Eve's necklace, or Texas sophora, is a native North American, deciduous tree which grows moderately fast to 35 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Trees grown in the sun are often shorter. It has an upright silhouette and pinnately compound leaves. Branches often weep slightly lending a delicate texture to the tree in the sun or shade. The fragrant, white-with-pink blossoms appear in June in dense, two to six-inch-long racemes, somewhat like wisteria. The black seedpods which follow are up to four inches long, the pod tightly pinched around each encased seed, giving it almost the appearance of a string of beads, hence its common name.

**General Information**

Scientific name: *Sophora affinis*

Pronunciation: sah-FOR-uh aff-EYE-niss

Common name(s): Eves-necklace, Texas sophora

Family: Leguminosae

USDA hardiness zones: 7A through 9B (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: deck or patio; specimen; reclamation; highway median; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; street without sidewalk; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; container or planter

Availability: not native to North America

Figure 1. Middle-aged *Sophora affinis* : eves-necklace

Credits: Ed Gilman, UF/IFAS

Figure 2. Range
**Sophora affinis: Eves-Necklace**

### Description
- **Height:** 30 to 35 feet
- **Spread:** 15 to 20 feet
- **Crown uniformity:** irregular
- **Crown shape:** vase, round
- **Crown density:** open
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** fine

### Foliage
- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)
- **Leaf type:** odd-pinnately compound
- **Leaf margin:** entire
- **Leaf shape:** ovate, elliptic (oval)
- **Leaf venation:** pinnate
- **Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- **Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** no color change
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Figure 3. Foliage**

### Flower
- **Flower color:** pink, white/cream/gray
- **Flower characteristics:** showy

### Fruit
- **Fruit shape:** elongated, pod, or pod-like
- **Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches, 3 to 6 inches
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** black
- **Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches
- **Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns
- **Pruning requirement:** needed for strong structure
- **Breakage:** resistant

### Culture
- **Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun, or partial shade, shade tolerant
- **Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained
- **Drought tolerance:** high
- **Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

### Other
- **Roots:** not a problem
- **Winter interest:** no
- **Outstanding tree:** no
- **Ozone sensitivity:** unknown
- **Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** unknown
- **Pest resistance:** free of serious pests and diseases

### Use and Management
Texas sophora often grows like a woody vine in the wild. It can be used as an understory small tree in a partially shaded location, but the crown will not be as dense as when it is grown in full sun, and flowering will be sparse. It makes a nice small tree for planting next to the deck or patio where it casts light shade. With some training and pruning to create a more uniform growth habit, the tree would become more popular.

Texas sophora should be grown in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil. Trees are drought-tolerant and will flower most heavily if located in full sun.

Propagation is by seed.

### Pests and Diseases
No pests or diseases of major concern.

**Current year twig color:** green, brown
**Current year twig thickness:** thin
**Wood specific gravity:** unknown