

Texas Prairie Dawn-Flower *Hymenoxys texana*:

First collected in 1889. Considered extinct until rediscovery in 1981.

Listed as Endangered without Critical Habitat in 1986.

Global and State Rank: G2S2

DESCRIPTION:

Member of the sunflower family (Asteraceae).

Single-stemmed or branching annual reaching a height of up to 6 inches.

Basal leaves are spoon-shaped, with entire or toothed margins.

Stem leaves are alternate, narrow with parallel sides, with no or few teeth on margins.

Flowers are yellow and are actually a cluster of flowers less than one half inch long.

Flowers March to early April.

Seeds are cone-shaped and mature April-May.

OCCURRENCE: Fort Bend, Harris, Trinity counties

HABITAT:

Sparsely vegetated areas of fine-sandy soil in open grasslands. Poorly drained depressions and saline swales, including periphery of low pimple mounds. Soil often covered with a blue-green algae. Disturbed soils if soil structure remains relatively intact.

PRIOR / CURRENT IMPACTS

Highway development, urban expansion, herbicide use, conversion to improved pasture, invasion of brush and other woody species.

STATUS:

Known sites originally limited to west and northwestern portions of Harris County. New sites in northeast and southeast Harris County. Another new site in Trinity County. Most populations occur on private land. Harris County is currently undergoing tremendous and rapid urban development. All areas of natural habitat are rapidly disappearing.

RECOVERY EFFORTS:

A large population of the species is informally protected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers within Addicks Reservoir. The largest known population was recently discovered on a 100-acre tract of land owned by the Katy Prairie Conservancy in northwest Harris County. This tract of land was originally purchased by Conservancy to protect remnant coastal prairie. A large population was recently discovered in southeast Harris County. Much of the population will be lost to highway development, but a 24-acre tract will be set aside by Harris County and managed as a conservation area.