

**Texas Trailing Phlox** *Phlox nivalis* ssp. *texensis*  
Listed as Endangered without Critical Habitat in 1991.  
Global and State rank: G4T2S2

**DESCRIPTION:**

Herbaceous to sub-scrubby evergreen perennial.  
Tends to spread along ground to form clumps.  
Stems are erect (generally 12 inches high) only for last 1-6 inches.  
Leaves are needle-like or lanceolate, densely packed on stem, usually half-inch long.  
Young stems produce flowers, are more erect, and have longer leaves than older stems.  
Flowers appear in mid-March to May, and are light-pink to lavender or purple.  
Petals fused into narrow tube about half-inch long that flares at top to wider, flat-topped surface.  
Five lobes around central tube opening are up to half-inch long, with conspicuous notch at tip.  
Fruit is achene-like and usually just one seed per flower.

**OCCURRENCE:** Hardin, Polk, Tyler counties.

**HABITAT:**

Deep sandy to sandy-loam soils, in open, grassy areas of long-leaf pine savannah or mixed pine/hardwood forest (RCW habitat). Relatively open canopy and understory is preferred. Species responds well to spring burns and probably depends on its periodic occurrence.

**SOURCE OF IMPACTS:**

Highway and pipeline construction, urban development, suppression of natural fire, conversion to pine plantations, development of dense mid-story.

**STATUS:**

Largest populations remain stable at Roy E. Larsen Sandylands Sanctuary (Hardin County), managed by The Nature Conservancy of Texas. Most historic populations have not been relocated. However, two very small populations have been found in the Big Sandy Creek Unit (Polk County) of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Two more small populations have been found on land owned by Temple-Inland Corporation (Hardin County). Another very small site has been found on land owned by International Paper (Tyler County).

**RECOVERY EFFORTS:**

- o Plants are being cultivated at both Mercer Arboretum/Botanical Gardens in Houston and Pineywoods Native Plant Center of the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.
- o 40 plants were reintroduced into Turkey Creek Unit of Big Thicket National Preserve in 1995. Survival has been limited due to lack of controlled burning.
- o Plants are being reintroduced into Big Sandy Creek Unit (Polk County) of Big Thicket National Preserve.

o Nature Conservancy of Texas has completed a survey and five-year management plan for land owned by Temple-Inland Industries (Hardin County). This Temple property is being restored to long-leaf pine forest. Two new populations were found on Temple land after controlled burns.