



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Rough-stemmed Aster

*Arlington, Texas Ecological Services Field Office*

#### Rough-stemmed Aster

*Symphyotrichum puniceum* var.  
*scabricaula*

#### Description

The rough-stemmed aster is a perennial plant in the Sunflower Family. This tall, sprawling plant has can be observed being erect or reclining on nearby vegetation. It contains underground stems and weak above ground stems that measure approximately 55 to 71 inches long. The plant bears rough hairs throughout and has shallowly toothed leaves that attach directly to the stem. The flowers occur at the branch tips. The flower petals are a pale lavender-blue and the center of the flower is yellow.

#### Distribution

In Texas, the rough-stemmed aster occurs or has been known to occur in the following counties: Cherokee, Wood, Smith, Van Zandt, Anderson, Franklin, Freestone, Henderson, and Hopkins.

#### Life History

The rough-stemmed aster begins to flower in late September through early November with October being the peak flowering period. The aster overwinters as basal rosettes or a circular arrangement of leaves at the base of the plant.



Photo Courtesy of Sam Kieschnick, iNaturalist

This plant reproduces through the process of pollination by bees and butterflies such as, the painted lady butterfly.

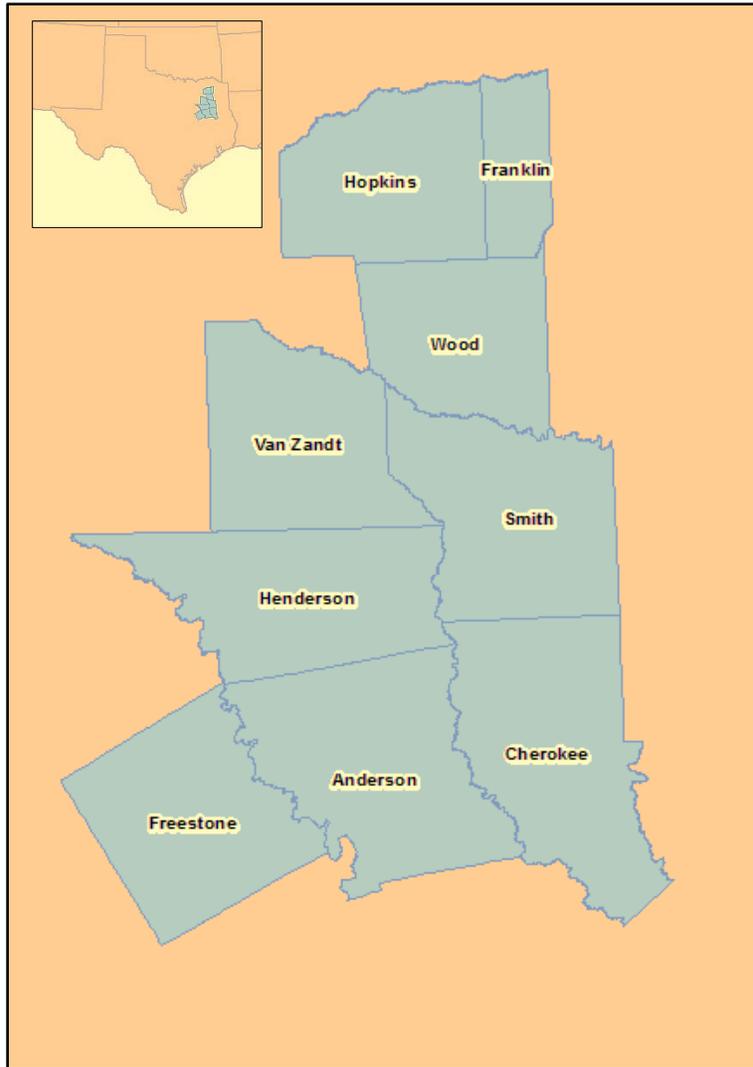
#### Habitat

The rough-stemmed aster can tolerate full sun to partial shade and prefers saturated soils, such as moist or boggy soils at the edges of water in oak-hickory woodland communities in Northeast Texas.

#### Conservation

The rough-stemmed aster is presumed to be rare and declining throughout its range. However, no range-wide assessment has been conducted recently; therefore the

current understanding of population status and trends is limited. Threats to the rough-stemmed aster include highway mowing schedules that correspond with bloom time, highway construction, alterations of drain patterns and habitat fragmentation. In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list 404 species, including the rough-stemmed aster, under the Endangered Species Act. The Service is currently assessing the status of the species and will make a final determination on whether to list the species in 2019. Survey efforts and other conservation activities are underway.



**Counties in Texas where the rough-stemmed aster been documented.**

## **References**

- Center for Plant Conservation. 2017. Plant Profile. *Aster puniceus* var. *scabrigaulis* . Available online at <http://saveplants.org/national-collection/plant-search/plant-profile/?CPCNum=352>.
- Nesom, G.L. 1997. The Status of *Aster scabrigaulis* (Asteraceae-Astereae), An Endemic of Northeast Texas. *Phytologia*. 82, 4: 300-315.
- Poole, J.M.; Singhurst, J.R.; Price, D.M.; Carr, W.R. 2007. Rare Plants of Texas. Texas A&M Press, Texas A&M University.
- Strong, A., and Williamson, P. 2015. Texas Parks and Wildlife. Section 6 Final Report: E-146 - *Data synthesis and species assessments to aid in determining future candidate or listed status for plants from the USFWS lawsuit settlements*. Rough-stemmed aster (*Symphyotrichum puniceum* var. *scabrigaulis*).

## **For Additional Information Contact:**

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