



Sophora affinis Eves-Necklace¹

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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 (Fig. 1). 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: 7 through 9 (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; reclamation plant; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

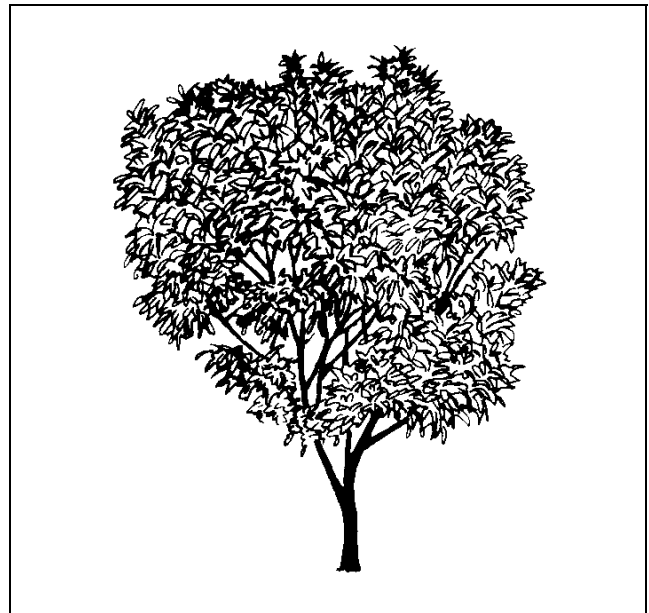


Figure 1. Middle-aged Eves-Necklace.

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 35 feet

Spread: 15 to 20 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: round; vase shape

Crown density: open

Growth rate: medium

Texture: fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

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

Flower

Flower color: pink; white
Flower characteristics: showy; summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated; pod
Fruit length: 3 to 6 inches; 1 to 3 inches
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: black
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; showy trunk; no thorns
Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: brown; green
Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in the shade; tree grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; alkaline; well-drained
Drought tolerance: high

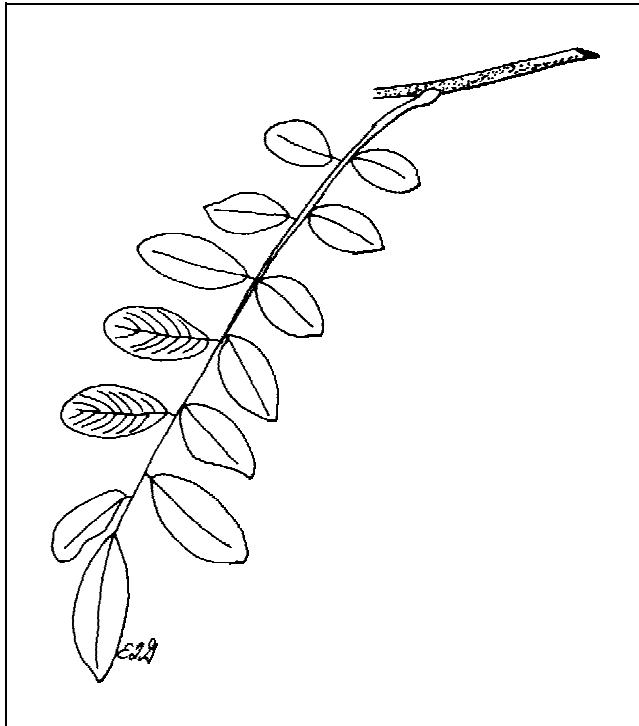


Figure 3. Foliage of Eves-Necklace.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases of major concern.

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

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.