

NUTTALL'S PRAIRIE PARSLEY

Polytaenia nuttallii DC.

Plant Symbol = PONU4

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Nacogdoches (TX)
Technical Office and the National Plant Data Center



Vascular Plant Image Gallery
Texas A&M University

Alternate Names

Texas parsley, prairie parsley

Uses

This species is used in wildflower gardens and prairie restoration.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

General: Celery Family (Apiaceae). Texas parsley is

a biennial (lives two years, only flowers the 2nd year). Sometimes it is recognized as a perennial. It is most conspicuous in the months of April and May of the second year during its rapid growth and flowering period. This herb (forb) is very common along road rights-of-way and prairies in the southern, central and eastern portions of the state, but is uncommon in the "true" piney woods of deep east Texas. *Polytaenia* is normally from 2-4 feet in height. During spring and early summer, the vegetative portion of the plant appears to be yellowish in color. The flowers are compound umbels and are yellow. The seeds are flat, somewhat resembling rolled oats.

Other umbels with similar growth habits are Queen Anne's lace/wild carrot/rattlesnake-weed (*Daucus* spp.), Bishop's weed (*Ammi majus*), water-hemlock (*Cicuta* spp.), and golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*). *Daucus*, *Ammi* and *Cicuta* all have white flowers. Although *Zizia* flowers are yellow, its leaflets are sharply serrated (saw toothed) rather than incised (cut deeply) or deeply lobed and its fruit is not flat. *Zizia* is not a common plant in Texas, while *Polytaenia* is one of the most common umbels found along roadsides in Texas.

Distribution

This species is known from North Dakota and Michigan to Texas and Alabama. For current distribution, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

Establishment

Adaptation: *Polytaenia* appears to prefer well drained, loamy sites in full sun. The plant is fairly uncommon in grazed areas.

Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

These plant materials are readily available from commercial sources. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) office for more information. Look in the phone book under "United States Government." The Natural Resources Conservation Service will be listed under the subheading "Department of Agriculture."

References

Davis, L. 2000. *Texas plant fact sheet: Polytaenia nuttallii*. USDA, NRCS, Nacogdoches Technical Office #2, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Texas A&M University 2001. *Vascular plant image gallery*. Bioinformatics Working Group, College Station, Texas. Accessed 21May2001.
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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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