



# Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## *Ipomopsis rubra*

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

### Common name

Standing cypress, Texas plume

### Range

Ten species of the genus *Ipomopsis* occur in Texas. *I. rubra* is an exceptionally striking species because it has some of the showiest flowers of any species of the plant found in Texas. It is found in dry sandy or rocky soil in central and eastern Texas.

### Life cycle

Biennial

### Bloom period

Summer

### Soil preference

Dry sandy or rocky soils

### Exposure

Sun to partial shade

### Propagation

A fall seeding recommended. Be sure the seeds are in good contact with the soil by lightly raking the seed into loose topsoil. Since it is a biennial, it is recommended that you plant two consecutive years in order to produce flowering stalks each year.

### Seeding rate

The recommended seeding rate is 6lbs/acre or 3 oz. per 100 square feet. The seed count is 341,000 seeds/lb. *I. rubra* was the most successful of over twenty individual species field-tested at the National Wildflower Research Center in 1984-85, yielding an average of over 200 seedlings per square meter when seeded at the recommended rate.



### Maintenance

The first year of growth will produce a ferny rosette, followed by a flower spike the second year. When the spike has bloomed out, cut it off, and new spikes will be formed. After flowering ceases, allow seeds to completely mature before moving for reseeding or collecting seed to plant in the new area.

### Miscellaneous

Since *I. rubra* is a summer bloomer, it is not as readily recognized by the public as our spring wildflowers. Not only is it not flowering when most of us are looking for the extensive displays of wildflowers along our roadsides each spring, but until 1985, the summer roadside wildflowers were mowed repeatedly. The new mowing policies of the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation will allow for the continued expansion of *I. rubra* as well as other summer and early fall species.