



# Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## *Phlox drummondii*

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

Drummond's phlox

### Range

Found in neutral to slightly acidic soils in central, south central, and east Texas in open to partly shaded grasslands and woods. Phlox includes about 50 species native to the United States, with 12 of them appearing in Texas. Another species, *Phlox divaricata*, is a perennial found in humus-rich woodland soil in east Texas.

### Life cycle

Annual

### Bloom period

Late March - June

### Soil preference

Although it prefers sandy, fertile soil, it can be established in a variety of well-drained soils, including alkaline substrates of the Hill Country.

### Exposure

Sun to partial shade

### Propagation

Seed of *P. drummondii* is available from United States companies, but essentially all of it comes from European sources, and includes a full range of color, from white to deep red. Plant seed in the fall at the suggested rate of 10 pounds/acre. After distributing the seed evenly, rake into loosened topsoil to ensure good seed/soil contact.

### Seeding rate

10 pounds/acre or 4 oz. per 100 sq. ft. The approximate seed count is 234,000 seeds/pound.



### Maintenance

Provide fall, winter, and spring watering if the seasonal rains are sparse. The plant dies back after going to seed, so it is suggested you plant with summer and/or fall-blooming wildflowers. As with all annuals, it is essential that phlox is allowed to reseed for an abundant display the following year.

### Miscellaneous

It is not commonly known that one of Texas' most beautiful wildflowers has been prized in Europe as an "exotic" cultivated garden flower for nearly 150 years. In 1835, botanist Thomas Drummond collected the seeds of this annual wildflower in an area where a red-colored variety overlapped with a pink-flowered form. This collection of wild seed was sent first to Great Britain and later was distributed to nurserymen in several European countries. About 200 true breeding strains were developed from this single collection of seed, including red, pink, white, lavender, maroon, coral, pale pink, and the mixtures of these colors, with the central "eye" of the flower differing in color from the outer color of the petals.