

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

PLANT OF THE MONTH AUGUST, 2023

ALAMO VINE, *MERREMIA DISSECTA*



Alamo vine is a very attractive twining climber. Alamo vine flowers open in the heat of the day and close before sunset and bloom in the spring, summer and fall, not like its relatives in the morning glory family. It has large white flowers with dark burgundy centers and the dark green foliage is intricately divided. The brown seed pods are interesting, resembling flowers themselves, which explains one of its common names, Woodrose. It blooms March to November As a profuse bloomer and can be left to amble at will, hugging the earth. Bees are attracted to its pollen; butterflies use the flowers for nectar.

Alamo vines's native habitat is open and disturbed areas, stream banks, and dry soils in central and South Texas. It tolerates poor soil and alkaline soil but needs good drainage. It readily re-seeds and can be very aggressive spreading by rhizomes. so prune to direct and control its growth. It is a deciduous perennial vine fast growing 10 - 12' in sun to partial shade, dry to moist conditions.

Like other members of the morning glory family, the leaves can be toxic, but prepared properly, they can also have medicinal uses (like many other plants) including treating scabies and other sources of itchiness and as a mild muscle relaxant.