

November 2007 Newsletter

Native Plant Society of Texas - South Texas Chapter



November 1st – Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker Shelly Maher

Our monthly meeting will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Garden Senior Center, 5325 Greely Drive, Corpus Christi.

Shelly Maher will speak on how plants use animals to their advantage. Feel free to come as early as 6:30 p.m. to visit with Ann and other members.

Do Not Forget!!!

No December Meeting!

Please Support the Garden Council

Our chapter is able to meet at the Garden Senior Center for free because we are a part of the Corpus Christi Garden Council – all we pay is \$20 a year. Therefore, each club needs to support the annual Garden Tour which is the Garden Council Fund raiser.

Do You Know Your Natives???? Contributed by: USDA-NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center



Perennial lazy daisy (*Aphanostephus riddellii* Torr. & Gray) is a member of the sunflower (Asteraceae) family. It grows nine to twelve inches tall, and has yellow-disked, white-rayed flowers that bloom from February to December. The common name of lazy daisy comes from the fact that the buds droop in the morning when they are closed, and then slowly come erect when the flowers open about mid-day. *Aphanostephus riddellii* is the only perennial species of this genus in Texas. Perennial lazy daisy grows mostly on well drained loam soils and caliche in pastures and woods. It can be found in Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. In Texas, perennial lazy daisy grows on the Edwards Plateau, through the Plains Country, and on limestone cuestas of the Rio Grande Plains. Although perennial lazy daisy may be found growing in conjunction with other *Aphanostephus* species, they have not been known to cross pollinate.

Perennial lazy daisy can be a nice addition to a native garden. It is best established from transplants. However, a seeded plot study conducted by the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville, Texas had good emergence of perennial lazy daisy despite droughty conditions. Perennial lazy daisy has a germination rate of about 28% and prefers cooler (50°-70° F) germination temperatures. It can be seeded directly, or grown in a greenhouse for later transplanting. For direct seeding, seeds can be broadcast on a clean weed-free seedbed, with adequate accumulated soil moisture. Seeds should be pressed in or raked lightly into the soil to ensure good seed to soil contact.



For greenhouse seeding, we recommend seeding into a shallow germination tray filled with a thin layer of gravel, a layer of sand to promote drainage, and a layer of potting soil. Small seedlings can then be transferred to larger pots or containers when they are ¾ to 1 inch in height. It is important not to over water, because the small seedlings are prone to damping off, but soil should not be allowed to dry out completely either. New plants can be transplanted into their permanent locations after two and a half to three month's time. Transplants are best planted in late winter or early spring to allow time for good root establishment before the summer heat arrives.

Perennial lazy daisy requires little management. It is tolerant of both wet and dry conditions. A 1998 field evaluation conducted at the Kika de la Garza Plant Material Center in Kingsville, Texas, found a 94 % survival rate for perennial lazy daisy. Irrigation may help to increase seed production, and to establish new plantings. Otherwise, no irrigation is necessary.

Info Sources: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas* - Correll and Johnston and research performed at the PMC.



[Upcoming Events](#) (361) 852-2100 www.cbbotanicalgardens.org

- **Nov 2nd-3rd - Butterfly Dayz** includes on-site evening and morning one-hour lectures, as well as two butterfly walks. Instructors are: Master Naturalists Sibyl Deacon and Grace Lopez, and butterfly experts Jack and Betty Prentiss. There are no class fees, only general admission is charged. Members are free! For class reservations and more information, call 361-852-2100.
- **Dec. 1st-2nd - Kristie Kringle's Garden Shoppe Open House**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is open to the public. Visitors Center admission is free! *New and unique gifts, tasty refreshments, and SANTA*, await South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center visitors. ***Santa's on site*** with no line *from 2-5 p.m. both days, inviting shoppers to bring their kids and cameras. Mrs. Santa's serving complimentary punch and cookies in the Meeting Room.* Members receive a 10% discount on most purchases.

[NPSOT Calendar Fall 2007- Spring 2008](#)

- **Nov. 1st** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker Shelly Maher – Plant and Animal Interactions
- **Dec.** – **NO NPSOT meeting. Happy Holidays!!!**
- **Jan. 3rd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **Feb. 7th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **March 6th** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Dr. Alice Hempel – Sunflowers
- **April 3rd** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.
- **May 1st** - NPSOT Monthly Meeting 7 p.m. – Speaker T.B.A.

[Chapter Contacts](#)

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[State Web Site](#) www.npsot.org