

Vascular Plants in Williamson County

Agalinis heterophylla – PRAIRIE AGALINIS, PRAIRIE GERARDIA [Orobanchaceae]

Agalinis heterophylla (Nutt.) Small, PRAIRIE AGALINIS, PRAIRIE GERARDIA. Annual, hemiparasite, taprooted, 1-stemmed at base, highly branched, to 65 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, nearly glabrous. **Stems:** 6-ridged, to 5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, tough, green stem flexible becoming woody, ridges with minute projections. **Leaves:** opposite decussate (subopposite), simple and sessile, without stipules; blades \pm erect and often appressed, narrowly elliptic to oblong or narrowly oblanceolate, to 25×4.5 mm, at plant base 3-lobed or cut and to 45×8 mm, tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, appearing 1-veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface and margins minutely scabrous with upward-pointing teeth. **Inflorescence:** panicle of leafy, spikelike racemes, terminal, open, having lateral branchlets with 1–2 flowers per node, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending lateral branch and bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, appressed to flower and $>$ calyx; pedicel 1–2.5 mm long, pale green, often wrinkled. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ca. 25 mm across and long; **calyx** 5-lobed, in range to 8.5 mm long; tube \pm funnel-shaped and 5-sided, 4–4.5 mm wide at orifice, low 5-ribbed with rib to each lobe, 10-veined, green; lobes mostly spreading, acute-triangular, 2–3.3 mm long, often purple or parts purplish; **corolla** 5-lobed, \pm bell-shaped, in range ca. 25 mm long and wide, light purplish pink to dark pink (yellowish in bud); tube nearly cylindrical, 2–2.4 mm diameter at base to 4 mm wide at top, veiny and white; throat with 5 dimples, loosely tomentose on outer surface, inner surface floor with 2 yellow strips and many purple-red spots; lobes 2 upper arching and 3 lower spreading, \pm semicircular and overlapping, ca. 5.5×9 mm, short-tomentose and with ciliate margins; **stamens** 4, fused as 2 pairs at the same level, the longer pair on corolla floor, the shorter pair on upper side; filaments sigmoid, of longer stamens 9 mm long, of shorter stamens 7 mm long, white with purple spots, shorter filaments somewhat flattened and channeled, with some tomentose hairs above midpoint; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal with sacs separate, 3 mm long, cream-colored, sparsely hairy with crooked hairs, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen cream-colored; **nectary disc** surrounding base of ovary; **pistil** 1, ca. 15 mm long; ovary superior, ellipsoid, ca. 3×2 mm, glossy green, glabrous, 2-chambered with many ovules attached to center; style cylindrical and nearly straight, white, with hooked to curved stigmatic tip, stigmatic lobes channeled, flattened top-to-bottom, short-papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, ellipsoid, ca. 9×5 mm before splitting, glossy brown, lacking stub of style at top; persistent calyx tube to midpoint of capsule. **Seed:** wedge-shaped to 5–6-sided polyhedral, $0.85\text{--}1.1 \times 0.5\text{--}0.7$ mm, brown, honeycombed.

A. C. Gibson