

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Euphorbia fendleri – FENDLER SPURGE [Euphorbiaceae]

Euphorbia fendleri Torrey & A. Gray, FENDLER SPURGE. Perennial herb, many-stemmed at base, < 10 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous and glaucous. **Stems:** cylindric, 1 mm diameter, internodes to 2.5 mm long and swollen above node, pale green or pink-tinged, glaucous. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, not fused to adjacent stipule at node, \pm acuminate, 0.6–1 mm long, pale green and glaucous, tip sometimes purple-red; petiole hemi-cylindric, 1–2 mm long, yellow-green; blade ovate to inversely heart-shaped, $5\text{--}7 \times 2.5\text{--}5$ mm, cordate to truncate or broadly tapered and somewhat oblique at base, entire, obtuse to acute at tip, inconspicuously pinnately veined with midrib scarcely raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** cyathium (= involucre with staminate flowers and 1 pistillate flower), appearing terminal, solitary and paired with elongating vegetative shoot; peduncle 1 mm long; cyathium ca. 2 mm wide (including spreading glands, lacking appendages); **involucre** \pm bell-shaped, initially 1×1 mm, green and glaucous, with 5 bracts and 4 glands, the bracts of involucre fused most of length, the glands alternate with bracts (1 absent), nectar-producing, raised, horizontally oval, $0.5\text{--}0.6 \times 0.65\text{--}0.8$ mm, somewhat fleshy, yellow-green; staminate flowers 35+ in 5 clusters, each with pedicel-like stalk, each cluster associated with 1 bractlet, the bractlet oblanceolate, ca. 1 mm long, white, fringed, the pedicel to 1.2 mm long, short-exserted from involucre and exserting flowers sequentially; pistillate flower on stalk (gynophore), at anthesis gynophore erect, 0.8 mm long, pale green, soon after gynophore elongating and becoming recurved with maturing ovary exserted. **Staminate flower:** reduced to 1 stamen; **stamen** filaments ± 0.4 mm long, white; anther conspicuously dithecal, each sac spheroid, 0.3 mm, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow. **Pistillate flower:** **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 3-lobed, 0.8×1 mm, yellow-green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3, fused at base, horizontal, 2-branched above midpoint. **Fruit:** capsule, 3-seeded, 3-lobed, $1.7\text{--}2 \times 2.1\text{--}2.4$ mm, glabrous, elastically dehiscent along septa and chamber into 6 dry valves; pedicel ± 1.5 mm long, at maturity capsule often reflexed and touching cyathium involucre. **Seed:** quadrangular-ovoid, ca. 1.5×0.8 mm, rose beneath frosty-white, finely netted epidermis, slightly wrinkled with a few circular depressions, grooved on obtuse ridge, acute on dorsal ridge, rounded on other angles.

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