

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Fraxinus albicans – TEXAS ASH [Oleaceae]

Fraxinus albicans Buckley. TEXAS ASH. Tree to small tree, fall-deciduous, with 1–several trunks upright to reclined (riparian), in range to 10+ m tall; dioecious; shoots with only compound cauline leaves. **Stems:** cylindrical flared approaching each node, internodes to 180 mm long, lacking wings, young twigs glossy green, glabrous, with lens-shaped lenticels, twigs shield-shaped and projecting; bark brownish gray with large light gray blotches, tight and fissured; axillary buds bishop cap-shaped, covered with dark brown scales. **Leaves:** opposite to subopposite decussate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 1–3 pairs of lateral leaflets, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled but pulvinuslike at base, “pulvinus” to 4 mm long and channeled, above pulvinus 15–70 mm long, with minute reddish scales on petiole; rachis channeled, to 125 mm long, with pairs of leaflets mostly opposite, spaced 12–95 mm apart, swollen above each pair; petiolule pulvinus, of lateral leaflets 2–12 mm long, of terminal leaflet 2–45 mm long, short-hairy on lower surface; blades of leaflets obovate or roundish to ovate or elliptic, 26–125(–185) × 12–70(–87) mm, asymmetric at base (lateral leaflets) and symmetric (terminal leaflet), appearing tapered but with narrow taper at petiole, entire to weakly low-crenate mostly above midblade on margins, obtuse to rounded (acute) or notched at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface dull green and glabrate to glabrous, lower surface with persistent, stiff, radiating short hairs from principal veins and with axillary tufts, finely netted vein. **Inflorescences:** cyme with lower portion dichasial, unisexual, terminal from dormant bud with subtending bud scales on 1-year twigs, many-flowered, scales of bud scales cupped, 3 mm long, ± crimson with minute scales, and ca. 8 parallel veins from base, axes somewhat 4-sided, with minute red scales (lepidote). **Staminate inflorescence:** with short basal axis (peduncle) < 2 mm long, dichasial at base, axes above opposite or subopposite decussate, the longest 50 mm long, with dense clusters of staminate flowers on branchlets; bracts 2 at each node, awl-shaped, the lowest 2–3 mm long, light green with red lepidote scales and brownish puberulent hairs, early-deciduous; bractlet subtending pedicel awl-shaped, 1–2 mm long, pale yellowish green or tinged reddish, minutely ciliate on margins; pedicel 1–2 mm long. **Staminate flower:** ± radial, 2–3 mm across (anthers); **calyx** weakly and minutely 3–4-lobed; tube appressed to ovary, lens-shaped, 1–1.5 mm long, green, glabrous; lobes (teeth) erect, triangular to 0.4 mm long; **corolla** absent; **stamens** (1–)2–4 mm; filaments 0.1–0.3 mm long; anthers basifixed, dithecal, straight to banana-shaped, (2.2–)2.6–4.1 mm long with a sterile, short point to 0.35 mm long, light yellowish green (tinged reddish), often slightly enlarged above midpoint, glabrous, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** absent. **Pistillate inflorescence:** axes opposite or subopposite decussate, branchlets to 15 mm long, light yellowish green; bracts 2 at each node, awl-shaped, the lowest 2–3 mm long, light green with red lepidote scales and brownish puberulent hairs, early-deciduous; bractlet ± subtending and appressed to pedicel lanceolate, 1–2 mm long; pedicel to 2 mm long increasing in fruit. **Pistillate flower:** bilateral, ± 1 mm across; **calyx** unequally ± 4-lobed; tube appressed to ovary, lens-shaped, 1–1.5 mm long, green, glabrous; lobes (teeth) erect, triangular 0.4–0.8 mm long; **corolla** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, 3–3.5 mm long; ovary superior, ovate in outline and biconvex, ± 0.7 mm long,

green, generally not keeled on 2 edges, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style with terminal stigma, stigma 1–1.5 mm long curved, aging red along 2 edges. **Fruit:** samara, winged, 1-seeded, strongly flattened-lanceolate with raised seed chamber, 33–43 × 5.7–6.7 mm, ridged over seed chamber, the wing entire or with a couple pimplelike bumps on a wing margin, rounded at tip, with scattered stomates on wing, glabrous; pedicels 5–8 mm long; calyx persistent.

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