

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Linum hudsonioides – SAND FLAX [Linaceae]

Linum hudsonioides Planch, SAND FLAX. Perennial herb, taprooted, not rosetted, (1–)several-stemmed at base, with ascending to spreading principal branches, in range < 15 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, leaves closely spaced and uniformly ascending, puberulent and faces with evenly spaced, minute, sessile glandular hairs with colorless heads. **Stems:** 8-ridged, to 1.5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, papillate-puberulent along ridges. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple and sessile, without stipules; blade triangular and awl-shaped to narrowly ovate, 2.3–7 × 0.7–1 mm, green with membranous margins, entire (not ciliate), acute with fine point at tip, with midrib raised especially at base to keeled, lower surface and margins with minute glandular hairs. **Inflorescence:** leafy monochasial cyme, terminal, open, several-flowered, bracteate, puberulent and with minute, sessile glandular hairs; branchlets erect to ascending, shootlike with appressed, leaflike bracts to 4 mm long having fine point at tip; pedicel 6-ridged, straight, < 9 mm long, puberulent along ridges and with glandular hairs in furrows. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 8 mm across; **sepals** 5, overlapping and strongly attached to receptacle, tightly appressed to corolla, ovate sharp-pointed at tip, ca. 4.5 × 1.5 mm, green with membranous margins, 3-veined at base, short-fringed to above midpoint on margins; **petals** 5, widely spreading, fan-shaped, ca. 5 × 3 mm, yellow with red basal portion, easily dislodged; **stamens** 5, fused ca. 0.3 mm as cup at base of ovary, filaments threadlike, 3 mm long, colorless; anthers exserted, dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.5 mm long, orangish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange; **pistil** 1, 3.5 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, 1–1.7 mm, greenish, 5-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules; styles 5 fused to above midpoint, to 3 mm long, yellow-orange, 5-lobed, free portion ca. 1 mm long, minutely papillate; stigma 0.2–0.25 mm diameter, dark green. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal and loculicidal, dehiscent by 5 valves, 10-seeded, spheric and scarcely 5-ribbed, in range 2.5–2.7 mm, tan, glabrous. **Seed:** hemi-ovoid, ca. 2 × 1 mm, glossy, ± orange, minutely textured with collapsed cells, becoming mucilaginous when wetted.

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