

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Phlox roemeriana – GOLD-EYE PHLOX [Polemoniaceae]

Phlox roemeriana Scheele, GOLD-EYE PHLOX. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, several-stemmed at base, 5–18 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, short-hairy and some parts with longer, hirsute hairs. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 1.5 mm diameter, hirsute with hairs 0.5–1 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, subsessile (petiole indistinct from blade) and sessile with pair fused across node or forming faint ledges, without stipules; blade oblanceolate, to < 10–25 × 2.5–6 mm, entire and ciliate on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined but only midrib visible and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal, several-flowered, bracteate, pubescent; bractlet subtending pedicel lanceolate, 14–15 × 3–4 mm, green, with midvein, short-hairy and with some hirsute hairs; pedicel flexible, 10–15 mm long, short-hairy with backward-pointing hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, (15–)24–33 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, (7–)13–14 mm long, lacking awns; tube narrowly bell-shaped with 5 light green ribs and colorless membranous panels slightly < linear ribs, ± 5 mm long, membranous panels gathered later expanded in fruit, long-hirsute on ribs; lobes ascending, acuminate-lanceolate to linear, mostly ca. 8 × 1–1.3 mm, long-hirsute on both surfaces and with some shorter hairs; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube + throat, 9.5–10.5 mm long, tube enlarged around ovary ca. 1.3 mm, throat ± 5-sided and faces shallowly grooved, throat flared at orifice to 2 mm diameter, yellow-green at base of corolla changing to yellow within tube and throat, at orifice with a ring of 10 faint red spots; lobes ± fan-shaped and broadly acute at tip, 8–14 × 7–13 mm, mostly glossy yellow at base (continuous with throat), whitish next, and at least from midlobe pale pink-purple changing to light pink-purple with faint veins, some corollas with little white next to throat and others with pigment darker purple; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at 2 levels, 2 at 3.5 mm and 3 at 7 mm from base; filaments ca. 0.25 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 2.2–2.4 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectary disc** surrounding base of ovary, wavy, ca. 0.15 mm thick, dark green; **pistil** 1, included, 2.6–3 mm long, < calyx tube; ovary superior, ovoid, 1–1.2 × 0.8–0.9 mm, green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with 3 ovules; style to 1.6 mm long, 3-branched, ca. 0.4 mm and green to fork, the branches suberect, stigmatic, greenish white to pale green at tip. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent by 3 valves, several-seeded, obovoid to ellipsoid, ca. 4.5 × 3–3.4 mm, straw-colored, valves thick-walled; calyx tube splitting nearly to base in membranous panels by developing fruit, lobes spreading and 10+ mm long. **Seed:** polygonal, 1.6–2 mm long, light brown, with winglike edges.

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