

**Vascular Plants of Williamson County**  
*Tamarix gallica* – FRENCH TAMARISK [Tamaricaceae]

*Tamarix gallica* L., FRENCH TAMARISK. Shrub to small tree, evergreen with green twigs and persistent scalelike leaves, highly branched and minor branches often shed, in range to 350 cm tall; shoots with only sessile cauline leaves along relatively slender, flexible axes, the most robust primary shoots with the largest blades and longest internodes and lesser orders of branches and branchlets with decreasing blade size and shorter internodes, secondary branches often with well-developed pulvinus at base, totally lacking nonglandular and glandular hairs. **Stems:** initially cylindrical, robust shoots having internodes to 5 mm long but variable and unequal, the ultimate branchlets having internodes < 0.3–1 mm long, often glossy. **Leaves:** helically alternate (unevenly spaced), simple and sessile (scalelike), not sheathing; blades triangular to ovate-oblong to 4.5 × 3 mm (robust shoot) to 3 × 1.5 mm and awl-shaped on 2-order branches, and 1.5–2.5 × < 1 mm and awl-shaped on ultimate branchlets, scalelike leaves ascending (not appressed), with a V-shaped groove defining base, entire, acuminate with minute colorless point at tip, venation obscure, somewhat fleshy, lower surface with scattered stomates, salt glands not visible. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal on slender young branches (new growth), flowering branch system appearing paniclelike, when robust each unit with 20+ ascending racemes along a “rachis” but less than 1-in-3 nodes forming a raceme and having unequal internodes (to 7 mm long) and “interrupted” (leaves appressed = sterile bracts), rarely at the lowest node of raceme having 2+ flowers, lateral paniclelike clusters often with pulvinus at base, racemes linear, in range 15–48 × 4–5 mm, mostly 25–45-flowered, flowers alternate (subopposite), overlapping, often 10–12 per 10 mm but as few as 5 approaching tip of raceme, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending peduncle of raceme scalelike, ca. 2.5 mm long; peduncle of raceme cylindrical, to 5 mm long, lacking pulvinus; rachis ± cylindrical with somewhat enlarged buttress at each bractlet; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, scalelike, ascending, 1.3–1.5 mm long, < midpoint of calyx, green drying and persistent in fruit; pedicel ascending, cylindrical, 1–1.3 mm long (rarely shorter), light yellow-green, glabrous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2.5–3.5 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, glabrous; tube dish-shaped, ca. 0.5 mm long, green, sinuses often slightly unequal; lobes ascending, ovate, ca. 0.7 × 0.4–0.5 mm, obtuse but often the longest lobe acute, green with narrow rose-pink margins and tip, entire to subentire (minutely jagged), persistent; **petals** 5, alternate with calyx lobes, ascending to ascending-spreading, in range obovate (elliptic), 1.5–2 × 1 mm, light rose and pink with white, rounded and slightly inrolled to the lower side at tip and truncate at base, venation , inconspicuous, easily abscising (caduceus); **nectary disc** beneath pistil, 5-lobed, 0.2 mm long, dark crimson, the lobes opposite calyx lobes (antisealous), producing thin nectar; **stamens** 5, arising from tops of nectary disc lobes (confluent), exerted; filaments ascending, at anthesis 1.7–2 mm long aging longer, light pink, never straight and often curved outward approaching anther, glabrous; anthers medifixed, dithecal, at pollination mostly horizontal, 0.5 mm long, rose aging darker, longitudinally dehiscent on the upper side; pollen white; **pistil** 1, 1.5 mm long; ovary superior, flask-shaped, ca. 0.5 × 0.65 mm, dull rose, glabrous, 1-chambered with 12+ ovules; style indistinct from top of ovary, conspicuously 3-branched (rarely 4-branched), lower portion 3-sided, rose-pink, branches from midpoint, ascending or later spreading, 0.5 mm long, white, stigmas flared at top. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 3-valved, 12+-seeded,

3-sided ovoid with beak (lower portion of style), ca.  $2.5 \times 1.3$  mm, style branch abscising at maturity, valves truncate at tip. **Seed:** with a tuft of hairs on upper tip, seed body ellipsoid,  $\pm 0.25$  mm long, appearing beaklike at top; seed hairs > seed body.

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