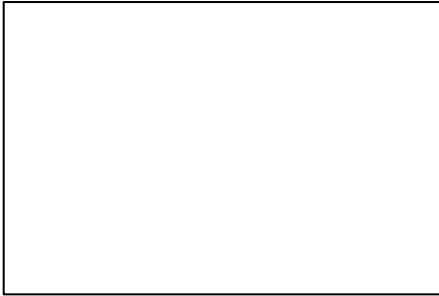


Photo Gallery Updates – What’s That Plant Growing on the Nash?

By Peggy Romfh, Photo Gallery Editor

Susan Conaty lent her expertise about the plants growing on Nash Prairie Preserve, offering us the opportunity to photograph several new species for the Photo Gallery. While many of these plants are seen elsewhere in Brazoria County, the concentration of plants on the prairie make it a truly remarkable site to see.



Peter Conaty, Peggy Romfh, Susan Conaty examine fine detail of plants.

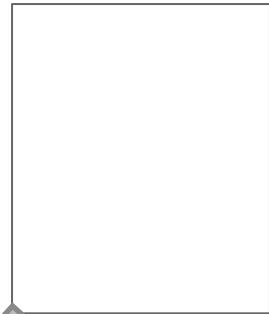
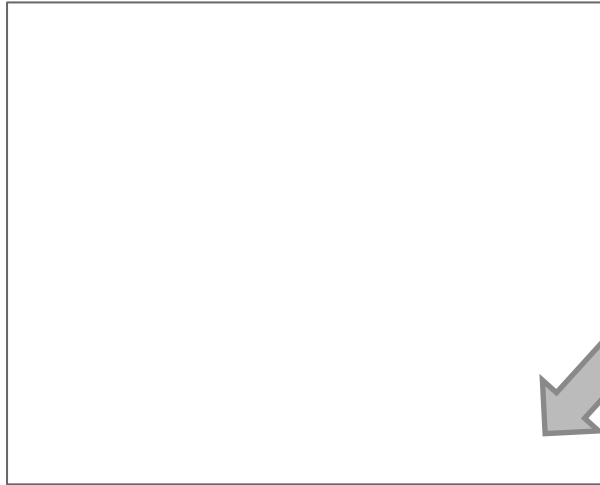
Mima Mounds

Mima mounds, also known as pimple mounds or prairie mounds, are low, flattened, circular to oval, domelike mounds composed of loose, sandy loam.

When a virgin prairie site such as the Nash Prairie is burned, the low mounds are easily seen as ‘pimples’ rising slightly above the base prairie soil. Often, different plant species will grow on the Mima mounds.

Mima mounds range in diameter from 6 m to more than 45 m and in height from 30 cm to greater than 1.2 m.

Many theories exist as to how Mima mounds were formed, including creation by prairie gophers over many millennia or accumulation of wind-blown sediment around clumps of vegetation.



Hundreds of spider lilies (*Hymenocallis liriosme*) dot the prairie below a lone American Elm tree (*Ulmus americana*)..

Below L to R: The seeds of Little Quakinggrass (*Briza minor*) quake in the wind while the spiny leaves of Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) are almost like yucca. Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) adds a dash of blue or violet color.



Right L to R: Cutleaf Evening Primrose (*Oenothera laciniata*), Eastern Yellow Star Grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), and Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*)

Right L to R: Groovestem Indian Plantain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*), Lyreleaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*), and Meadow Pink (Texas Star) (*Sabatia campestris*).

Photos by Pete and Peggy Romfh