*This zine was made for the **Weed is a Word** garden project by Julia Barbosa Landois at **Ruby City** in San Antonio, TX (2026). Thanks to the Ruby City staff and Louis DeHoyos for helping with the plant babies.*

Learn more:
https://rubycity.org/weed-is-a-word/

Ready to find some friends in the weeds?

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center
https://www.wildflower.org/

Foraging Texas
https://www.foragingtexas.com/

Native Plant Society of Texas
https://www.npsot.org/

Seek app by iNaturalist
Free, kid-friendly, and doesn't require an account. Learn more about the plants and animals all around you!

"WEED"



IS (just) A WORD

Who decides which of us belongs? And WHY?

"Weed" is a word that denotes what belongs and what doesn't.

It's a value judgement without hard boundaries, a non-specific term used to describe any plant that's uninvited or undesirable in a particular situation.

The plants in this zine belong to this land, but many of us have forgotten their names and their honored place among us. These more-than-human neighbors invite us to ask questions about community, belonging, and exclusion.

Remember: Diversity is NATURAL and ESSENTIAL for any ecosystem to thrive.

Let's give weeds their flowers ♥

Ready to meet some of our "weed" friends? First up is...

Frogfruit

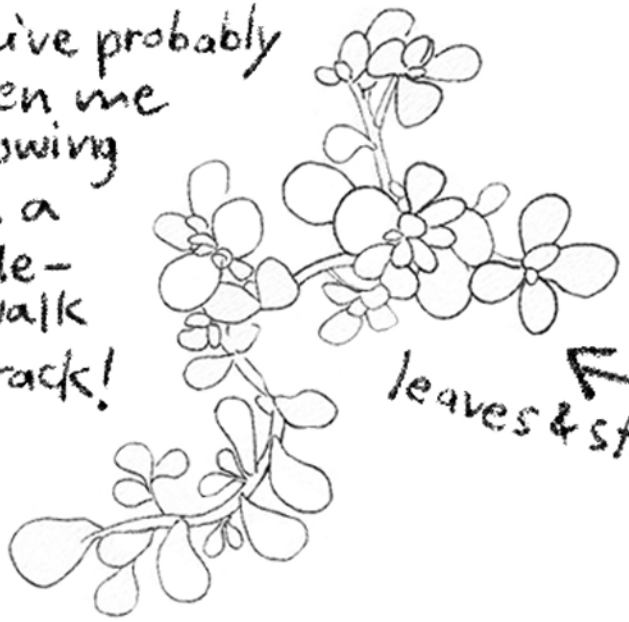
Phyla nodiflora
turkey tangle frogfruit/
tiqui-tiqui/bella alfombra

Low-growing, drought- and flood- tolerant ground cover that can replace invasive grass. Butterflies love their tiny flowers!

What can I add to the ecosystem of my community without having to be noticed or congratulated?



You've probably seen me growing in a side-walk crack!



leaves & stems

we're edible!

leaves & flowers & roots

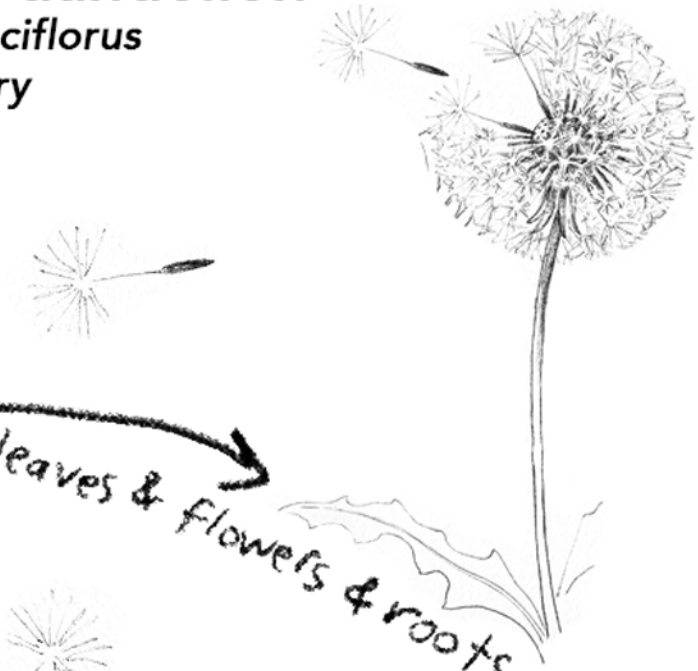
leaves & seeds

Purslane

Portulaca oleracea
verdolagas/canauhquilitl

Texas (false) dandelion

Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus
small-flower chicory



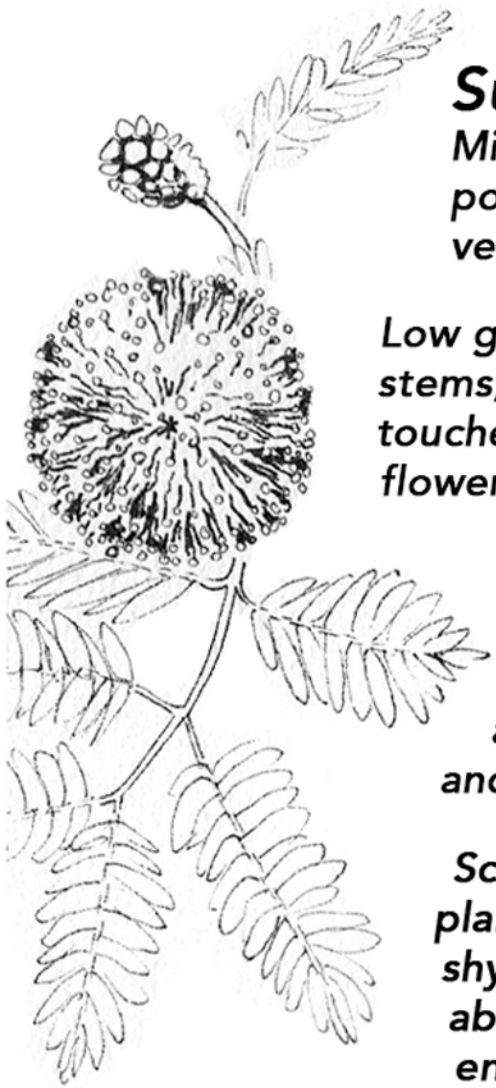
Which cracks in the structure are opportunities to grow?



What do I WISH for my community, and how can I grow toward that?

Peppergrass

Lepidium virginicum
Virginia pepperweed/
lentejilla/xoxoucapahtli



Sunshine mimosa

Mimosa strigillosa
powderpuff/shy plant/
vergonzosa

Low growing with long prickly stems, leaves that fold when touched, and pink, puffy flowers. Partners with soil bacteria to turn nitrogen from the air into plant food, increasing soil nutrition and helping neighboring and future plants.

Scientists interested in plant consciousness study shy plants because of their ability to react to their environment and learn!

How do I feed my community? How do they feed me?

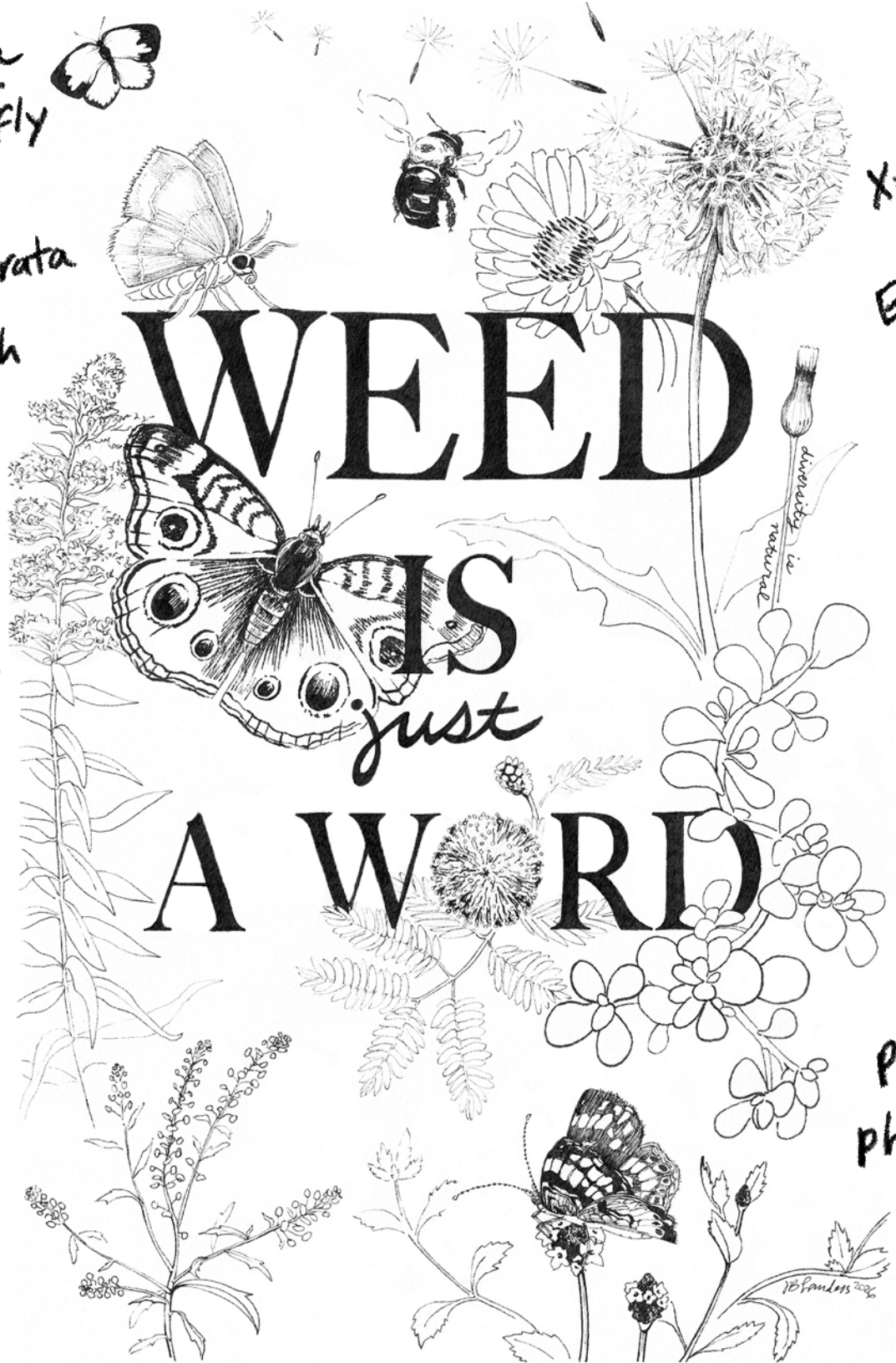


Goldenrod

Solidago (29 species in TX!)
vara de oro/many indigenous names across N. America

Often cut down when mistaken for allergenic ragweed, goldenrod is a KEYSTONE SPECIES. It's an incredibly important source of food and shelter for insects, birds, and other small animals at all stages of life - young and green, blooming with beautiful yellow flowers, and dry and dormant.

Where can I find and share resources in disguise?



Eurema lisa
little sulphur
butterfly

Synchlora aerata
wavy-lined
emerald moth

Junonia
coenia
common buckeye
butterfly

Xylocopa
virginica
Eastern carpenter
bee

Phyciodes phaon
phaon crescentspot
butterfly