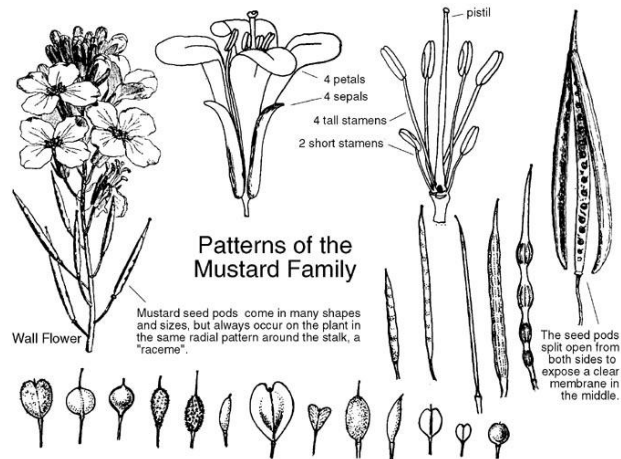


## Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

The Mustard Family (Brassicaceae) is a family of more than 3500 herbaceous plants ranging across temperate parts of the globe. It is well represented at H-E-B: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, kale, kohlrabi, and turnips are all members of the genus *Brassica*. Beyond the vegetable aisle, the mustard family is represented in our area mostly by cool season annuals, some of them Old World winter weeds such as Shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) and London rocket (*Sisymbrium irio*). Many of our earliest-blooming natives are also mustards, including pepperweeds (*Lepidium* spp.), bladderpods (*Physaria* spp.) and whitlow-worts (*Draba* spp.). The showiest member of the local Brassicaceae may be bracted twistflower (*Streptanthus bracteatus*), a tall annual with bright fuchsia sepals and lavender petals that is being considered for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species.

The flowers of members of this family are usually very easy to recognize. They are radially symmetrical, usually with 4 sepals, and 4 petals, 6 stamens and 1 style. The stamens are usually of two lengths. While the flower helps to place the plant within the family, it is often the fruit that helps identify the species. The fruit is a 2-chambered capsule known as a silique or siliqua, unless the capsule happens to be short and stout, in which case it is known as a silicle or silicula. The leaves of mustard plants are variable, being simple or pinnately compound or lobed. More often than not, the leaf (or leaflet) margins are entire.



Source: [http://www.wildflowers-and-weeds.com/Plant\\_Families/Brassicaceae.htm](http://www.wildflowers-and-weeds.com/Plant_Families/Brassicaceae.htm)



Bracted twistflower  
(*Streptanthus bracteatus*), an  
Edwards Plateau endemic

Dissected selenia  
(*Selenia dissecta*),  
a species of  
seasonal ponds in  
west Texas



Texas golden glade-  
cress (*Leavenworthia  
texana*), a glauconite  
endemic from east  
Texas

