

Amorpha canescens
LEAD PLANT (Pea Family)

in the **Peacock Prairie** at the **James Woodworth Prairie Preserve**



Lead Plant is usually semi-erect; with age, it becomes increasingly woody. The young stems are light green and covered with white hairs. Sometimes fine hairs cover the plant to the extent that it appears to be heavily dusted with white lead, hence its name.

The compound leaves are bipinnate, 4-12" long, and may have up to 50 small leaflets. 1-3' tall (30-90 cm)

The small flowers occur along pubescent spikes, about 2-6" long, at the ends of major branches. These flowers range in color from light to dark purple. Each flower has a single upper petal, which is tubular at first, but later unfolds horizontally to protect the reproductive parts. There are also 8 exerted reddish stamens with bright yellow anthers that are quite conspicuous.

At the Peacock/Woodworth Prairie blooms about the 4th week of June through the 4th week of July.

