

**Galium obtusum**

WILD MADDER BLUNTLEAF BEDSTRAW (Madder Family)

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



This native perennial plant is about  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1' (15–31 cm) tall. It often branches near the base, sending up multiple stems that are little branched and have a tendency to sprawl. Along these stems are whorls of 4 sessile leaves; sometimes toward the base of the plant there are whorls of 5 or 6 leaves. These leaves are about 1" long and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " across, and tend to angle upward from the stems. They are oblong, and have a prominent central vein. The stems terminate in an inflorescence consisting of about 1–6 tiny white flowers. These flowers have 4 petals and 4 stamens with black anthers and are about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " across. At the Peacock/Woodworth Prairie, blooms about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May through the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.

Text from [http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/wild\\_madderx.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/wild_madderx.htm) Photos by Frank Mayfield at black sweater art, inc.