

HARPER'S BEAUTY

Harperocallis flava McDaniel

Synonyms: none

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US–Endangered FL–Endangered

Wetland Status: US–OBL FL–FACW



Eleanor Dietrich



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Field Description: Perennial **herb**. **Leaves** 2.5 - 8 inches long, all basal, narrow, ribbed, and pointed, flat or slightly twisted, overlapping at base of stem like iris leaves; old leaf bases persistent. **Flower stalk** to 2 feet tall, leafless except for 3 - 5 tiny bracts; 1 flower per stalk. **Flower** with 6 yellow, spreading **tepals** (3 petals + 3 sepals), 6 stamens, and ovary with 3 - 6 lobes. **Fruit** surrounded by erect, leathery tepals, which have darkened to yellow-green with red tips.

Similar Species: Harper's beauty is unique in its solitary, yellow flower and iris-like leaves. Rush featherling (*Pleea tenuifolia*) has similar leaves.

Related Rare Species: Other rare lily family species from the Panhandle included in this guide: panhandle lily (*Lilium iridollae*), lance-leaved trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*), and Florida bellwort (*Uvularia floridana*).

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Habitat: Wet prairies, seepage slopes, pitcherplant bogs, especially in transitions to shrub zones, and in nearby roadside ditches.

Best Survey Season:

Flowers in May, plants are nearly invisible at other times of the year.

Range-wide Distribution:

Endemic to Franklin and Liberty counties, FL.

Conservation Status:

Discovered in 1965, Harper's beauty is the only species in its genus. It occurs in a small area within the Apalachicola National Forest and vicinity, where 15 small populations are known.

Protection &

Management: Apply prescribed fire every 2 - 3 years. Avoid soil and hydrological disturbances. Avoid spring mowing and herbicide use in road rights-of-way.

References:

Ander-son and Smith 1994, Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Godt et al. 1997, Kral 1983, McDaniel 1968, USFWS 1983a, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

