

ASHE'S MAGNOLIA

Magnolia ashei Weath.

Synonym: *Magnolia macrophylla* ssp.

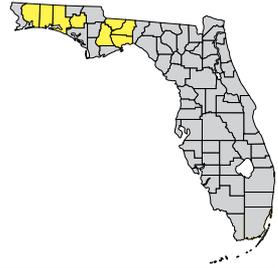
ashei (Weath.) D.L.Johnson

Family: Magnoliaceae (magnolia)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US—Mgmt Concern FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—FACU FL—UPL



Gary Knight



FNAI

Field Description: Small tree or large shrub, 15 - 30 feet tall, usually with several leaning, gray-barked trunks. Twigs stout with conspicuous stipule scars encircling stem and large, shield-shaped leaf scars. Leaves 1 - 2 feet long (largest simple leaves of any FL tree), alternate, deciduous, broadly oval, wider above the middle, with “eared” base; upper surface green, lower surface shaggy on young leaves and chalky-white on mature leaves.

Flowers 1 foot across, fragrant, petals white with large, purple splotch. **Fruit** cone-like, 2 inches long, red maturing to brown, with red seeds held in small, open pockets.

Similar and Related Rare Species: Three deciduous, single-trunked species of magnolia occur in the rich, hardwood forests of Panhandle slopes and ravines. Pyramid magnolia (*M. pyramidata*) has fragrant white flowers and diamond-shaped leaves with eared bases. Cucumbertree (*M. acuminata*) has oval leaves with tapered bases and small, yellowish-green flowers. Umbrella-tree (*M. tripetala*) has tapered leaf bases and large, all-white flowers.

Ashe's magnolia

Magnolia ashei

Habitat: Rich upland hardwood forests of slopes, bluffs, and floodplains.

Best Survey Season: Flowers in April. Multiple trunks, stout twigs, and large fallen leaves, which look like old paper bags on the ground, are distinctive in the winter.

Range-wide Distribution: Ashe's magnolia is endemic to the FL Panhandle. The other rare magnolias are more northern species that reach their southern limit in NFL.

Conservation Status: About half of the 90 occurrences of Ashe's magnolia are protected on five conservation areas. The other magnolias are very rare in FL and do not occur on conservation areas.

Protection & Management: Avoid logging, clearing, or burning slope forests and floodplains.

References: Coile 2000, Godfrey 1988, Kral 1983, Latimer 1994, Nelson 1994, Nelson 1996, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

