

Hymenachne amplexicaulis

WEST INDIAN MARSH GRASS

Poaceae

Common Synonyms: *Hymenachne acutigluma*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

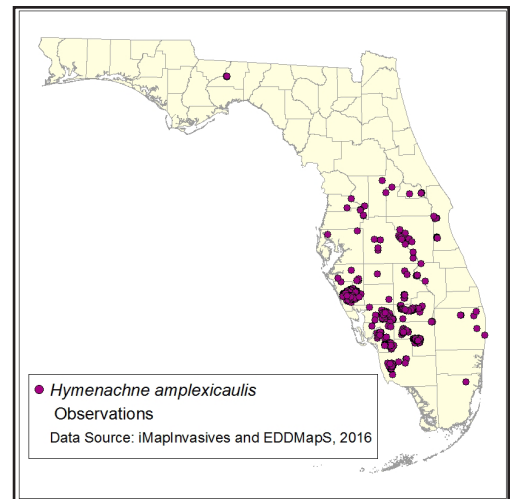
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: N/A

Growth Habit: Aquatic, emergent
graminoid

Origin: Central America, Mexico,
South America



Hymenachne amplexicaulis
photo by William Overholt



<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Photo.aspx?id=12630>

Description: Robust wetland grass ascending up to 1 m tall and rooting at lower nodes. Stems are floating, creeping or ascending and sparingly branched. Unlike most grasses, stems are filled with a white pith (not hollow). Leaf blades are flat, to 35 cm long, cordate at the base and often clasping the stem. Inflorescence a terminal panicle, dense and spike-like.

Note: Looks similar to and occurs in the same environment as the native maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*). May be distinguished by its longer ligule (>1 mm), white pith, and more clasping leaf base.

Habitat: Invades marshes, river edges and wet pastures

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida herbarium specimen from 1977

Control Methods:

Imazapyr treatments when there is standing water appear to give longer-term control and allow more vigorous re-growth of native species. Follow herbicide label regarding use in aquatic and terrestrial situations.

This species readily grows from seeds and small vegetative pieces. Retreat before flowering to prevent the introduction of additional seeds to the seed bank.

Useful Resources:

Plant Conservation Alliance; Alien Plant Working Group. West Indian Marsh Grass: Least Wanted. www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/hyam1.htm. Viewed on 26 August 2015.

[http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/files/caip/SP257/Hymenachne_amplexicaulis\(SP257-034\).pdf](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/files/caip/SP257/Hymenachne_amplexicaulis(SP257-034).pdf)