

PINE BARREN FALSE FOXGLOVE

Agalinis georgiana (Boynt.) Pennell

Synonyms: none

Family: Orobanchaceae (broomrape)

FNAI Ranks: G1/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-none



John Hays



Ann Johnson

Field Description: Annual herb up to about 16 inches tall and with pubescent, minutely scabrous four-angled **stems** that may be branched or simple. The non-fleshy **leaves** are filiform with entire margins and about 0.5 inches long. Axillary fascicles are shorter than or equal to subtending leaves. The **inflorescence** is an elongate raceme with 1-2 **flowers** per node. The **calyx** forms a tube with triangular lobes. The **corolla** is pale pink without red spots or yellow lines on the inside and is 0.4-0.6 inches in length. The **style** is included in the corolla or only slightly exerted. The fruit is a globular **capsule** up to 0.2 inches long.

Similar Species: While there are many generally similar-looking species in the genus, the closest in appearance is *A. fasciculata*. This much more common species differs from the rare one in that it is a generally larger species, 1.5 - 6.5 ft tall and has larger flowers, up to 1.5 inches long. Additionally, *A. fasciculata* has two yellow lines and dark red spots on the inside of the flower and the style is significantly

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exerted from the corolla tube.

Related Rare Species: Jackson false foxglove (*Agalinis filicaulis*) is state-listed and found in mesic flatwoods, wet prairies, and seepage slopes from the panhandle to central peninsula. Hampton false foxglove (*Agalinis flexicaulis*) is endemic to peninsular Florida and is found in mesic flatwoods, wet prairies, and dry prairies.

Habitat: Dry longleaf pine savannahs, pine oak forests, and bog margins.

Best Survey Season: This species has a very short flowering period, occurring between late August and late September.

Range-wide Distribution: In addition to the Florida panhandle, this species is also known from the East Gulf Coastal Plain of Georgia and one county in Alabama.

Conservation Status: This species has a limited range in the central-western Florida panhandle, possibly significantly reduced from its historical extent given the lack of observations in many areas in the last 50 or more years. This species has few populations, almost all of which have low numbers of individuals. Over half of occurrences are located within just one protected area, increasing its vulnerability. Its longleaf pine savanna habitat is rapidly disappearing and where it remains, is threatened by fire exclusion.

Protection and Management: The habitat in which this species occurs (longleaf pine savanna) is fire-dependent and should be burned frequently enough to prevent shrub encroachment.

References: Hays 2002, Schotz 2008, Wunderlin 2011.