

SCARE-WEED

Baptisia simplicifolia Croom

Synonyms: none

Family: Fabaceae (pea)

FNAI Ranks: G4/S4

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



Scare-weed blooming after prescribed fire, showcasing the terminal inflorescences of yellow pea-like flowers and obvious unifoliate leaves. Photo taken by Paul Russo at Apalachicola National Forest.

Field Description: A large herbaceous plant at full size often , with fairly large circular, sessile leaves on upright stems with pale undersides; yellow pea-like flowers terminate the tips of the branches.

Similar Species: None

Related Rare Species: No other wild indigo species (*Baptisia sp.*), within Florida, has the characteristic unifoliate, sessile leaves with pale undersides, restricted to pine flatwoods in the Apalachicola region.

Habitat: Flatwoods and sometimes upland pine; may be found on slightly disturbed sites within these communities.

scare-weed

Baptisia simplicifolia

Best Survey Season: Spring.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to the FL panhandle

Conservation Status: Many populations are found within Apalachicola National Forest, where prescribed fire is regularly applied in management. The species is currently secure.

Protection and Management: The continued application of prescribed fire within mesic flatwoods and upland pine and the prevention of forestry operations, like fireline plowing, through existing populations.

References: Weakley 2022, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011