

MANY-FLOWERED GRASS-PINK

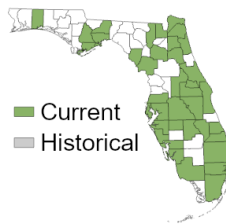
Calopogon multiflorus Lindl.

Synonyms: *Calopogon barbatus* (Walt.) Ames
var. *multiflorus* (Lindl.) Correll

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S2S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Threatened



Petals wider toward the tip than the base; flowers strongly fragrant.
Growing in recently burned mesic flatwoods at Caravelle Ranch Wildlife
Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: **Herb** with 1 - 2 basal, grass-like **leaves** 10 cm long and less than 5 mm wide. **Flower stalk** leafless, to 35 cm tall, with up to 15 dark pink **flowers** crowded at the top, most open at the same time. **Petals** spreading, widest above the middle, with narrow base (claw) and bluntly pointed tip; **middle sepal** less than 2 cm long; **lateral sepals** spreading but not reflexed backwards; **lip** upright and triangular with a crest of orange bristles. **Floral bracts** 5 - 10 mm long; **Fruit** 1 cm long.

Similar Species: Bearded grasspink (*Calopogon barbatus*) has petals widest below the middle, with 5 or fewer flowers open at one time; floral bracts are 2 - 4 mm long; it occurs in wet flatwoods. Pale grasspink (*Calopogon pallidus*) flowers are usually white or pale pink and the lateral sepals are reflexed backwards. Tuberous grasspink (*Calopogon tuberosus*) leaves are wider than 5 mm, the middle sepal is more than 2 cm long, and the petals are widest below the middle.

Related Rare Species: More than 70 species of native orchids are endangered

Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2000

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or threatened in Florida.

Habitat: Dry to moist flatwoods with longleaf pine, wire grass, saw palmetto.

Best Survey Season: Plants respond quickly to a burn, generally flowering around two weeks after a fire, but response time varies based on the time of year.

Range-wide Distribution: Throughout most of Florida, west to Mississippi and north to Georgia.

Conservation Status: Although known historically throughout FL and on many conservation lands, this orchid is now rare due to fire exclusion and conversion of habitat to pine plantations.

Protection and Management: This species is highly fire-dependent. Burn flatwoods every 2-3 years with an emphasis on growing season fires to promote flowering. Protect flatwoods from draining, bedding, clearcutting, roller-chopping and other soil and hydrology disturbances.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2023, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.



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