

GODFREY'S GOLDENASTER

Chrysopsis godfreyi Semple

Synonyms: *Chrysopsis godfreyi* Semple *forma viridis* Semple

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered



Godfrey's goldenaster at Camp Helen State Park. Photo by Camille Eckel.

Field Description: Biennial or perennial **herb** with basal rosettes and sprawling stems to 1.5 feet long; flowering **stems** usually curved up at ends. **Leaves** to 4 inches long, oblong or long-oval. Two **forms** of plants: forma *godfreyi* with dense, white, wooly leaf hairs, giving plants a blue-gray look; and forma *viridis* with green leaves bearing stalked glandular hairs. **Flower heads** 1 inch wide, with densely hairy or glandular bracts; in flat-topped clusters of 5 - 15 heads at ends of stems; both **ray and disk flowers** yellow.

Similar Species: Godfrey's goldenaster is distinguished from four other goldenasters in the Florida Panhandle by densely hairy or glandular bracts, by flower clusters with fewer than 30 heads, and stem leaves all about the same size. All goldenasters (*Chrysopsis* spp.) have a double pappus composed of both long, thin bristles and short, coarse scales or bristles that distinguish them from all other composites.

Related Rare Species: See Cruise's goldenaster (*Chrysopsis gossypina* ssp. *cruiseana*) and Florida goldenaster (*Chrysopsis floridana*) in this guide.

Godfrey's goldenaster

Chrysopsis godfreyi

Habitat: Occurs on back dunes and along sandy paths through coastal scrubs.

Best Survey Season: Flowers mid-October to mid-November.

Range-wide Distribution: Gulf County, FL west to Baldwin County, AL.

Conservation Status: Godfrey's goldenaster is protected on several state parks and military bases, and at Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Protection and Management: Godfrey's goldenaster is protected on several state parks and military bases, and at Gulf Islands National Seashore.

References: Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Johnson 1993, Semple 1978, Semple 1981, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.