

HIGHLANDS GOLDENASTER

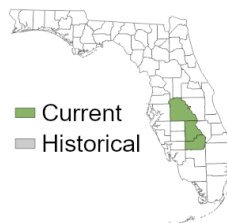
Chrysopsis highlandsensis DeLaney & Wunderlin

Synonyms: none

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered



Growing in scrubby flatwoods at Platt Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo by Amy Jenkins.

Field Description: Perennial **herb** that lives 2-3 years and usually dies after flowering. Forms a taproot with new rosettes from bases of previous season's stems. **Stems** 1-8, frequently branched, with stipitate glands. **Basal leaves** spatulate, margins entire. **Leaf faces** woolly, stipitate glandular, often appressed along the stem. **Plant** has a whitish green appearance due to dense lanate hairs. **Leaf shape** is oblong but is variable within and among populations. **Heads** are yellow with several dozen ray and disk flowers. **Fruits** are typical composite achenes with a pappus adapted for wind dispersal

Similar Species: May be distinguished from other goldenaster sp. (*Chrysopsis* sp.) by its distinct woolly leaves appressed to the stem and erect phyllaries

Related Rare Species: Highlands goldenaster is distinguished from other goldenasters in Florida by its oblong hairy mid-stem leaves, with truncate to rounded bases; having appressed phyllaries that are moderately to densely glandular. 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.

highlands goldenaster

Chrysopsis highlandsensis

Habitat: Scrub and scrubby flatwoods.

Best Survey Season: Flowers in Fall

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to central peninsula - Polk, Highlands, and Glades Cos. Range extends in a 4 mi wide band for 40 miles along the Lake Wales Ridge in southern Polk and Highlands counties.

Conservation Status: Listed state-endangered, 20 populations are known from 3 counties in central Florida; many of these are on conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Avoid mechanical disturbances. Exclude off-road-vehicles and cattle. Purchase and preserve scrub habitat

References: Flora of North America (FNA). 2006b. Weakley et al. 2023



Flowers yellow; stem leaves woolly or tomentose. Taken at Platt Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo by Kim Alexander.

highlands goldenaster

Chrysopsis highlandsensis



Mid-stem widest at or below the midpoint, their bases truncate to rounded; leaf blades sparsely woolly-pilose. Taken at Platt Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo by Amy Jenkins.



Growing in scrubby flatwoods at Platt Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo by Amy Jenkins.