

## LAKE-SIDE SUNFLOWER

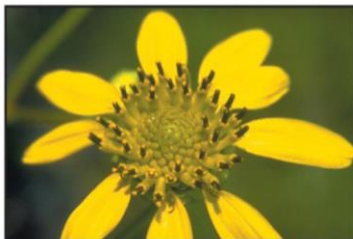
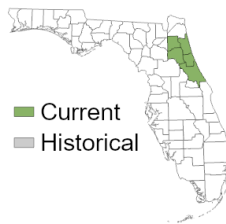
*Helianthus carnosus* Small

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Asteraceae (composite)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1G2/S1S2

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-Endangered



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**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with 1 - 2 mostly leafless **stems**, 0.6 - 0.8 m tall, with 1 - 2 flower heads at top of stem. **Leaves** 10.2 - 25.4 cm long and 13 mm wide, opposite, smooth and hairless, linear to lance-shaped, with entire margins and only the midvein visible; leaves mostly clustered near the base of the stem but some small leaves scattered along the upper stem. **Flower heads** 6 - 10 cm across, with up to 20 yellow **ray flowers** and many yellow **disk flowers** on a slightly domed disk. **Bracts** surrounding the head are loosely overlapping, narrowly oval and pointed, slightly toothed or spiny, and all about the same size.

**Similar Species:** Lakeside sunflower is the only *Helianthus* species in NE FL with nearly leafless stems and yellow disk flowers. Narrow-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) and Florida sunflower (*Helianthus floridanus*) have rough-hairy leaves on the stem.

**Related Rare Species:** None in Florida.

**Habitat:** Wet flatwoods and prairies.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer-fall; August - October.

## lake-side sunflower

*Helianthus carnosus*

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to NE FL. Not seen in Clay County in many decades.

**Conservation Status:** Only 9 populations are known, none on conservation areas.

**Protection and Management:** Burn flatwoods and prairies every 2 - 3 years during the growing season. Avoid alterations to hydrology. Avoid clearcutting, bedding, and roller-chopping. Protect plants from grazing.

**References:** Coile 2000, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

