

LAKE-SIDE SUNFLOWER

Helianthus carnosus Small

Synonyms: none

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FACW++ FL-FACW



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Field Description: Perennial **herb** with 1 - 2 mostly leafless **stems**, 2 - 2.5 feet tall, with 1 - 2 flower heads at top of stem. **Leaves** 4 - 10 inches long and 0.5 inch 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** 2.4 - 4 inches 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.

lake-side sunflower

Helianthus carnosus

Related Rare Species: None in Florida.

Habitat: Wet flatwoods and prairies.

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

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.