

LIBERTY SPIDERLILY

Hymenocallis henryae var. *glaucofolia* Traub

Synonyms: none

Family: Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis)

FNAI Ranks: G2T2/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-OBL



Field Description: Perennial **herb** growing in dense clumps with 4 - 8 leaves rising from a bulb. **Leaves** 14 - 26 inches long, strap-shaped and tapering to a blunt tip, often waxy, deciduous, heavily glaucous. **Flower stalk** 18 - 30 inches tall, rounded, stout, topped with 1 - 2 showy, fragrant flowers. **Flower** consists of a **tube**, 4 inches long; 6 narrow, pale green **segments**, 4 - 6 inches long and radiating outward; and **corona**, 2 inches across, white, broadly funnel-shaped and toothed, with 6 attached stamens. **Fruit** nearly an inch broad, oblong, green. Known only from Liberty County.

Similar Species: Other Panhandle spiderlilies have all-white flowers. Henry's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *henryae*) is not found in Liberty County. Spring-run spiderlily (*H. rotata*) corona is wider than 2 inches; Choctaw spiderlily (*H. choctawensis*) has leaves widest above the middle. Alligator spiderlily (*H. palmeri*) is similar in habitat and appearance but does not occur in the Panhandle.

Liberty spiderlily

Hymenocallis henryae var. *glaucifolia*

Swamp Lily (*Crinum americanum*) has 2 - 6 flowers per stalk, flowers with long white petals but no corona, and tiny teeth along the leaf margins.

Related Rare Species: Godfrey's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis godfreyi*), state-endangered, has white flowers with green stripes on the underside of the segments. Leaves are yellow-green. Henry's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *henryae*), state-endangered, has shiny leaf blades, grows solitary or in loose clumps, and has slightly shorter tepals.

Habitat: Both varieties of *H. henryae* can be found in open edges of dome swamps or depression marshes where they intersect with either wet prairie or wet flatwoods and the ground remains wet most of the year, with little canopy cover to shade out the plant.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; mid-May to mid-June, may be recognized by fruits and leaves through mid-July.

Range-wide Distribution: This spiderlily is endemic to Liberty and Franklin counties.

Conservation Status: There are 12 extant occurrences in the Florida panhandle, all of which occur on protected lands. Habitat destruction and degradation from silviculture activities, hydrological changes, and fire suppression threaten this species. Herbivory and fruit/seed predation from convict caterpillars and grasshoppers may present a threat to some vulnerable populations.

Protection and Management: Burn flatwoods and marshes every 2 - 3 years, allowing fire to burn into cypress stringers and ponds. Avoid soil disturbing activities such as bedding and plowing fire lanes.

References: Coile 2000, FNAI 1992, Smith and Darst 1994, Smith and Flory 1989, Smith and Flory 1990, Smith and Flory 1995a and 1995b, Smith and Henry 1999, Smith and Garland 2003, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.