

## HENRY'S SPIDERLILY

*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *henryae* Traub

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2T2T3/S2S3

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

**Wetland Status:** US-none+ FL-OBL



**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** growing solitary or in loose 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, shiny green or slightly 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.

**Similar Species:** Other Panhandle spiderlilies have all-white flowers. Spiderlily (*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *glaucifolia*) is only 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. Swamp Lily (*Crinum americanum*) has 2 - 6 flowers per stalk, flowers with long white petals but

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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. Spiderlily (*Hymenocallis henryae* var. *glaucofolia*), state-endangered, has glaucous leaf blades, has slightly longer tepals, and grows in dense clumps.

**Habitat:** Wet flatwoods and cypress depressions edges.

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

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to the FL Panhandle west of the Apalachicola River.

**Conservation Status:** There are 22 known extant occurrences in the south central portion of the Florida panhandle, fifteen of which are located on protected lands. Habitat destruction and degradation from silviculture activities, fire suppression, and development threaten this species. Herbivory and fruit/seed predation from convict caterpillars and grasshoppers may present a threat to some vulnerable populations. A catastrophic hurricane in 2018 impacted all populations on Tyndall AFB with unknown long-term consequences.

**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.