

NODDING PINWEED

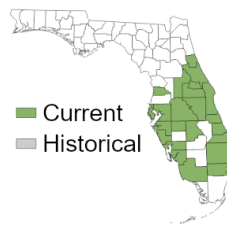
Lechea cernua Small

Synonyms: none

Family: Cistaceae (rockrose)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened



Leaves pubescent on both surfaces; stems usually with appressed hairs. Growing in scrubby flatwoods at Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: **Flowers** and **fruits** mostly borne in clusters of 2s and 3s (occasionally solitary), usually on bent, reflexed pedicels; **leaves** pubescent on both surfaces; cauline **stems** usually with appressed pubescence (basal shoots are villous); outer slender **sepals** shorter than the broad inner sepals (Weakley et al. 2023).

Similar Species: Nodding pinweed is easily distinguished from all other species of pinweed in Florida by the relatively large leaves present at flowering time that are densely hairy on both surfaces.

Related Rare Species: Pine pinweed (*Lechea divaricata*), state-endangered, is a slender, erect flowering plant with stiffly spreading hairs and leaves < 1 cm long, occurring most often in scrubby flatwoods.

Habitat: Open, unshaded white sands of scrub and scrubby flatwoods. This plant is often associated with Florida rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*).

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Lechea cernua

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall; July-September (fruits present October-March). Basal rosettes of unbranched, leafy vegetative shoots present in winter.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to Florida from Lake County south to Broward and Collier counties.

Conservation Status: A Florida endemic and state-threatened, this species occurs in 19 central and southern counties, both along the coast and in the interior.

Protection and Management: Reacts to fire by both re-sprouting and increased seed production. Nodding pinweed prefers open, sandy spaces formed when scrub stands are burned (Menges and Kohfeldt 1995). Plants often found along sandy trails.

References: Hodgdon, A.R. 1938, Menges, E.S., and N. Kohfeldt. 1995, Weakley et al. 2023.



Flowers and fruits mostly in clusters of 2s and 3s, usually on reflexed pedicels. Growing in scrubby flatwoods at Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

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Flowers and fruits mostly in clusters of 2s and 3s, usually on reflexed pedicels. Taken at Platt Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area. Photo by Amy Jenkins.



Growing along edge of scrubby flatwoods at Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.