

CAROLINA LILY

Lilium michauxii Poir.

Synonyms: none

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FAC++ FL-FAC



Basal whorl of leaves; leaves oblanceolate to obovate in shape, entire, and fleshy.
Photo taken at Joe Budd WMA by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: A medium-sized plant with oblanceolate leaves occurring in whorls at nodes, often with some nodes of the stem only having a single leaf; 1-4 nodding, fragrant and orange flowers with strongly recurved tepals terminate the stem in mid-summer. Large, showy anthers produce brownish red pollen grains.

Similar Species:

Related Rare Species:

Habitat: Upland mixed woodland and upland hardwood forest.

Best Survey Season: Summer.

Range-wide Distribution: Southern VA south to the panhandle of FL and west to

Carolina lily

Lilium michauxii

east TX; occurring inland to east TN and northern AL.

Conservation Status: Nine out of the current 12 known populations within FL are on protected land.

Protection and Management: Continue prescribed fire in upland mixed woodland, protect against development associated with slope forests and upland hardwood forest, treat invasive species and manage white-tailed deer herds, as Carolina lily is often browsed by deer, detrimentally affecting reproductive success.

References: Weakley 2020, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011