

WEST FLORIDA COWLILY

Nuphar ulvacea (G.S. Miller & Standley)
Standley

Synonyms: *Nuphar lutea* (L.) Sm. ssp. *ulvacea*
(Mill. & Standl.) E.O. Beal; *Nuphar advena* (Ait.)
Ait. f ssp. *ulvacea* (Mill. & Standl.) Padgett

Family: Nymphaeaceae (waterlily)

FNAI Ranks: G5T2T3/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-none

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-OBL



Vivian Negron Ortiz



Field Description: Perennial, aquatic herb that originate from a rhizome. Floating leaves oval to lance-shaped, 1.5 to 2 dm long and up to 10 cm wide. Submergent leaves usually 2X larger than floating leaves, thin and crisped. Flowers composed of 6-9 yellow sepals and petals scalelike.

Similar Species: West Florida cowlily differs from other yellow cow-lilies or spatterdocks (*Nuphar*) in having leaves that are 1.5-2.5 times longer than wide, 6-9 yellow sepals, and elliptic stigmatic rays. The other genus in the Nymphaeaceae family that occurs in Florida -water-lilies (*Nymphaea*) differs from *Nuphar* in having 4 sepals and numerous showy petals that spread out versus the concave sepals. Petals of *Nymphaea* can be white, yellow, pink, blue, or lavender.

West Florida cowlily

Nuphar ulvacea

Related Rare Species: The state listed endangered sleeping beauty waterlily (*Nymphaea jamesoniana*) occurs in the Nymphaeaceae family with the West Florida cowlily, but is not known to occur in the Florida panhandle. The sleeping beauty waterlily is found along Florida's west coast and also differs in having white flowers that open only at night.

Habitat: Rivers and Streams. Swiftly to slowly flowing shallows of streams rooted in sand of clear or tannic acid-tinted or blackwater streams.

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer.

Range-wide Distribution: Western panhandle of FL, southern Alabama, and southern Mississippi.

Conservation Status: West Florida cowlily, a near endemic, occurs in a very narrow range in the western Florida panhandle, west to southern Alabama, and possibly southern Mississippi. Threats include intensive forestry practices, agriculture, development, and decreased water quality.

Protection and Management: Maintain water quality and natural flow. Road widening or changes to culverts, utility corridors, or installation of underground utilities should be carefully approached and monitored.

References: Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Tobe et al. 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011