

SNOWY ORCHID

Platanthera nivea (Nutt.) Luer

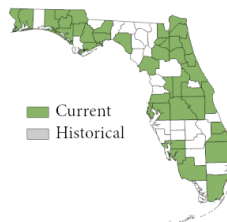
Synonyms: *Habenaria nivea* (Nutt.) Spreng.

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FACW+ FL-FACW



White flowers; lip margins entire neither fringed nor lobed. Photo taken at Hungryland WMA by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description:

Similar Species: The dense spike of white flowers on a terrestrial orchid is a highly recognizable characteristic of snowy orchid.

Related Rare Species: Over 70 other species of native orchids are listed as threatened or endangered in FL.

Habitat: Wet flatwoods and prairie

Best Survey Season: Spring-summer; May - September.

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern coastal plain, north to Delaware, and west to Texas.

snowy orchid

Platanthera nivea

Conservation Status: Listed state-threatened and tracked as vulnerable in Florida, this species is vouchered from over half the counties in the State.

Protection and Management: The open, grassy habitat favored by this species is maintained by frequent prescribed fire or, in the case of roadside populations, mowing. Reducing invasive exotic plant populations along roads and other corridors and avoiding heavy soil disturbance may help to promote this and other terrestrial orchid species. Because flowering in this species is highly erratic from year to year, populations may be persisting even if not seen.

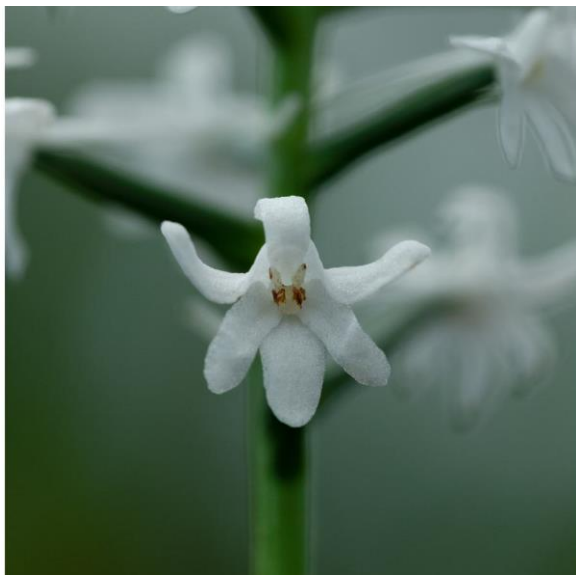
References: Sheviak, C. J. 1997. *Platanthera*. In: *Flora of North America* Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. *Flora of North America North of Mexico*. 20+ vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 26.



White flowers; lip margins entire neither fringed nor lobed. Photo taken at Salt Lake WMA by Kelly Anderson.

snowy orchid

Platanthera nivea



White flowers; lip margins entire neither fringed nor lobed. Photo taken at Hungryland WMA by Kelly Anderson.



Growing in small wet prairie on the edge of basin marsh and wet flatwoods. Photo taken at Salt Lake WMA by Kelly Anderson.