

## LARGE-PLUMED BEAKSEEDGE

*Rhynchospora megaplumosa* E. Bridges & Orzell

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Cyperaceae (sedge)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

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

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



Photos by Jenna Annis

**Field Description:** Perennial clumping sedge with erect to arching-ascending culm to 35 inches tall. Leaves narrowly linear, mostly basal, and shorter than culm. Inflorescence a single terminal cluster. Spikelets light brown. Achene body 1.5-1.8 mm long. Perianth bristles plumose from base to midbristle. Bristles 5-7 mm long, arching outward from the achene and exerted from the spikelet scales.

**Similar Species:** Large-plumed beaksedge is distinguished from other *Rhynchospora* species by the plumose bristles that are 3-4 times the length of the achene.

**Related Rare Species:** Several species of *Rhynchospora* are considered rare in Florida, including hairy-peduncled beaksedge (*R. crinipes*), dotted beaksedge (*R. punctata*), and Thorne's beaksedge (*R. thornei*).

## large-plumed beaksedge

*Rhynchospora megaplumosa*

**Habitat:** Scrubby flatwoods and scrubby to mesic flatwoods transition areas.

**Best Survey Season:** Spring-fall; fruits are used for identification; present year round.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to central peninsular Florida. Polk, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.

**Conservation Status:** 16 extant populations scattered over 4 counties in central Florida. All of these are currently protected.

**Protection and Management:** This species is typically localized to frequently burned sandy openings in scrubby flatwoods. Flowering and fruiting is strongly stimulated by fire (Orzell and Bridges 2000).

**References:** Bridges and Orzell 2000, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.