

## ST. JOHN'S BLACKEYED SUSAN

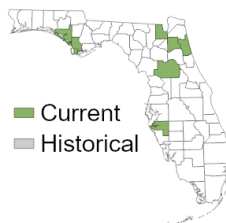
*Rudbeckia nitida* Nutt.

**Synonyms:** *Rudbeckia glabra* DC.

**Family:** Asteraceae (composite)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S2

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



**Field Description:** Perennial **herb** with a single, stiff, erect, ribbed stem, occasionally branched, topped by a flower head. **Stems** 50 - 140 cm tall, smooth, not hairy or waxy. Most **leaves** basal, 15 - 60 cm long, 2 - 8 cm wide, entire or slightly toothed, with long leaf stalks; main veins conspicuous, extending to the leaf tip; leaves further up the stem are smaller and lack leaf stalks. **Ray flowers** 12 - 60 mm long, bright yellow, drooping. **Disk flowers** purplish-brown, on an elongated, conical disk, 3.5 - 4.5 mm tall.

**Similar Species:** Mohr's coneflower (*Rudbeckia mohrii*) has very narrow leaves; orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) has numerous clasping leaves on upper stems. Both have yellow, drooping ray flowers, and brown disk flowers on flat, not conical, disks.

**Related Rare Species:** This species is easily distinguished from eared coneflower (*Rudbeckia auriculata*), which it somewhat resembles, by lacking the strongly auriculate-clasping stem leaves that is characteristic of eared coneflower.

**Habitat:** Wet or mesic pine flatwoods, bogs, savannas, seepage slopes; roadside ditches.

**St. John's blackeyed susan**

*Rudbeckia nitida*

**Best Survey Season:** Summer-fall; May - July with a second flowering period September - October.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, GA, AL.

**Conservation Status:** Only 1 of 13 known populations in Florida occurs on conservation lands, at Jennings State Forest.

**Protection and Management:** Burn every 2 - 3 years. Avoid ditching, draining, or other alterations to hydrology. Avoid mowing during summer and fall. Avoid mechanical clearing and soil disturbance.

**References:** Coile 2000, Cox and Urbatsch 1994, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Perdue 1962, Perdue 1957, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

