

## LOUISIANA YELLOW-EYED GRASS

*Xyris louisianica* Bridges & Orzell

**Synonyms:** *Xyris stricta* Chapman var. *obscura* Kral

**Family:** Xyridaceae (yellow-eyed grass)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2G3/S1

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

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



Phillip Hight



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**Field Description:** Afternoon-flowering, yellow-eyed grass. Perennial tufted or solitary herb with yellow flowers in a compact, cone-like spike.

**Similar Species:** *Xyris louisianica* resembles *X. stricta* and *X. ambigua*, but has several consistently different features. It has a darker plant base, narrower leaves, and later flowering time than *X. ambigua*. *X. louisianica* grows solitary or in small clumps, has a flattened scape apex obviously narrower than the spike, and has light-colored mature seeds vs *X. stricta* which grows densely cespitose, has a flattened scape apex almost as broad as the spike, and has dark-colored mature seeds.

**Related Rare Species:** *Xyris calcicola*, *X. correlliorum*, *X. isoetifolia*, *X. longisepala*, *X. panacea*, and *X. scabrifolia*.

## Louisiana yellow-eyed grass

*Xyris louisianica*

**Habitat:** Wet prairies, pine savannas, cypress ponds, and acid swamps.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to the Gulf Coastal Plain, from the Florida Panhandle to east Texas.

**Conservation Status:** Over the past decade, some large populations on protected sites have been managed with prescribed fire which may have increased the number of plants. Other sites may have continued declines, without appropriate management for the wet savanna or hillside seepage. The overall trend is that the range of this species is declining.

**Protection and Management:** Frequent fire, unaltered hydrology and invasive species control are necessary for the management of this species. Highly threatened by land-use conversion, habitat fragmentation, succession due to lack of fire, and certain intensive forest management practices. Wet flatwoods and savannas are threatened by silvicultural practices that alter the hydrology (making sites drier) and do not include adequate prescribed fire. Off road vehicles threaten open savanna wetland which are accessible. Invasive species threaten *Xyris louisianica*, especially feral hogs, cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), and Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*).

**References:** NatureServe, Weakley 2015