

HENRY'S SPIDERLILY

Hymenocallis henryae Traub

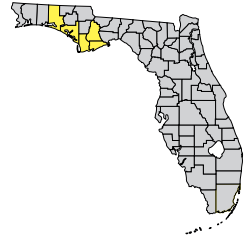
Synonyms: none

Family: Amaryllidaceae (amaryllis)

FNAI Ranks: G2/S2

Legal Status: US—Mgmt Concern FL—Endangered

Wetland Status: US—none FL—OBL



Hymenocallis henryae

Gary Knight



Hymenocallis godfreyi

Gil Nelson

Field Description (photo, left, and drawing): Perennial herb with 4 - 8 leaves rising from a bulb. **Leaves** 14 - 26 inches long, strap-shaped and tapering to a blunt tip, often waxy, deciduous. **Flower stalk** 18 - 30 inches tall, rounded, stout, topped with 1 - 2 showy, fragrant flowers. **Flower** consists of a **tube**, 4 inches long; 6 narrow, pale green **segments**, 4 - 6 inches long and radiating outward; and **corona**, 2 inches across, white, broadly funnel-shaped and toothed, with 6 attached stamens. **Fruit** nearly an inch broad, oblong, green.

Similar Species: Other Panhandle spiderlilies have all-white flowers. Spring-run spiderlily (*Hymenocallis rotata*) corona is wider than 2 inches; Choctaw spiderlily (*Hymenocallis choctawensis*) has leaves widest above the middle. Alligator spiderlily (*Hymenocallis palmeri*) is similar in habitat and appearance but does not occur in the Panhandle. Swampily (*Crinum americanum*) has 2 - 6 flowers per stalk, flowers with long white petals but no corona, and tiny teeth along the leaf margins.

Related Rare Species (photo, right): Godfrey's spiderlily (*Hymenocallis godfreyi*), state-endangered, has white flowers with green stripes on the underside of the segments. Leaves are yellow-green.

Henry's spiderlily

Hymenocallis henryae

Habitat: Henry's spiderlily: wet flatwoods, edges of cypress stringers and ponds. Godfrey's spiderlily: salt marshes.

Best Survey Season: Henry's spiderlily flowers mid-May to mid-June, may be recognized by fruits and leaves through mid-July. Godfrey's spiderlily flowers March to May, if marshes have been burned in the winter.

Range-wide Distribution: Both Henry's spiderlily and Godfrey's spiderlily are endemic to the FL Panhandle.

Conservation Status: About 25 populations of Henry's spiderlily are known, most on conservation areas. Only 2 populations of Godfrey's spiderlily have been discovered, both on protected areas in Wakulla County.

Protection & Management: Burn flatwoods and marshes every 2 - 3 years, allowing fire to burn into cypress stringers and ponds. Avoid soil disturbing activities such as bedding and plowing fire lanes.

References: Coile 2000, FNAI 1992, Smith and Darst 1994, Smith and Flory 1989, Smith and Flory 1990, Smith and Flory 1995a and 1995b, Smith and Henry 1999, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

