

Rare Plants of Louisiana

Sium suave - hemlock water-parsnip Carrot Family (Apiaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1S2/G5

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| State | Yellow | Yellow | White | White | White |
| Global | White | White | White | White | Yellow |
| | imperiled | | rare | | secure |

Range: Newfoundland to British Columbia, and southward throughout the U.S.; also East Asia.

Recognition:

- Tall herb in the parsley/carrot family, 1.2 to 1.5 m tall
- Lower portions of stems round and hollow, upper portions corrugated-angled with branches arising from middle to upper stem
- Stem nodes bear long fibrous adventitious roots when submersed
- Aerial leaves long and mostly once-pinnately compound; submerged leaves highly dissected, 2-3 times compound with linear segments
- The leaflets lance-shaped, sharply and abundantly toothed, which differs from the superficially similar stiff cowbane (*Oxypolis rigidior*) which has only a few dentate teeth per each side of a leaflet
- Mexican cowbane (*Cicuta mexicana*), a similar species which is common in coastal freshwater wetlands, will have many leaves that are twice to three times compound
- Inflorescence a compound umbel to 5-8 cm broad, long stalked; flowers small with white petals
- Fruit with several corky-thickened ribs, NOT possessing 2 prominent wings; fruits 2 to 3 mm long



University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point : Steve C. Garske

Flowering Time: June to August

Light Requirement: Full sun to part shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

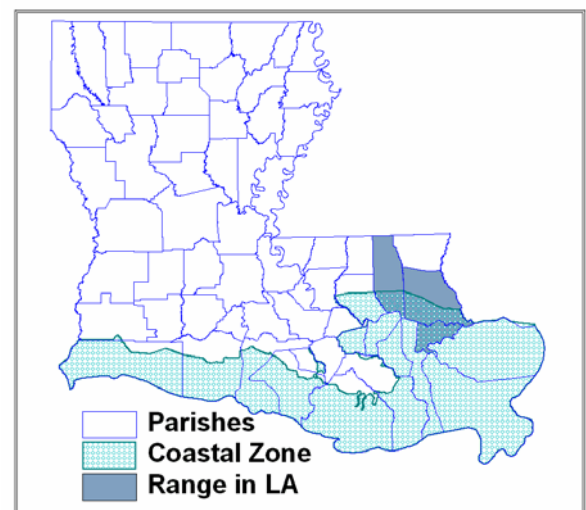
OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Louisiana occurrences are in fresh marshes and cypress-tupelo swamps around Lake Pontchartrain. This species has not been recorded in about 25 years, thus field work is warranted.

Threats:

Salt water intrusion and conversion of fresh marsh into open water



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Beneficial Management Practices:

- Any practices that maintain existing high quality fresh marsh
- Additional field inventory work

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain



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References:

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