

# Rare Plants of Louisiana

## *Melanthera nivea* - snow melanthera Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State		■			
Global					■
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** AL, FL, GA, IL, KY, LA, MS, SC, TN

### Recognition:

- Coarse perennial with variable morphology, to 2 m tall in rich forest soils in shade while plants in sunny locations may be less than 1 m
- Stems 4-angled, often with purple splotches; stems bearing stiff hairs
- Leaves opposite, elliptic or ovate in shape, up to 12 cm long by 6 cm wide (plants in sunny situations may have narrower leaves with basal lobes)
- Leaves rough in texture, coarsely toothed, often triple-nerved
- Flower heads discoid (lacking ray flowers) – corollas snowy white (sometimes suffused with purple)



Photo by Dennis D. Horn  
<http://tenn.bio.utk.edu/vascular/>

**Flowering Time:** May to October

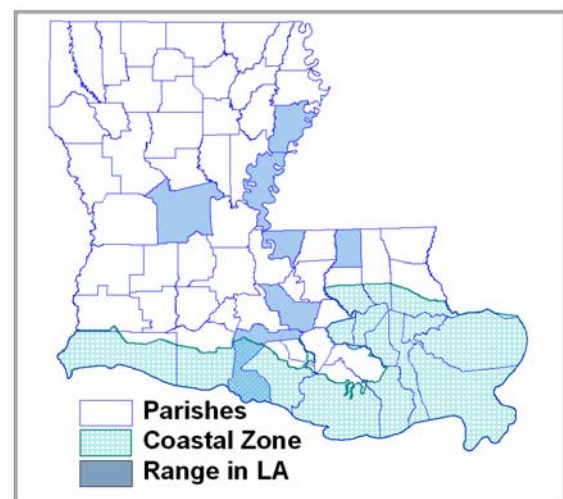
**Light Requirement:** Shade to part sun

### Wetland Indicator Status:

FACU – usually occurs in uplands but occasionally found in wetlands

### Habitat:

Coastal Zone occurrences are on rich soils of salt domes, in and on the edges of salt dome hardwood forests. Most interior Louisiana occurrences are in bottomland hardwood forests.



### Threats:

- Conversion of rich bottomland and loess upland forest to agriculture or other forest types
- Unnatural rates of erosion

### Beneficial Management Practices:

Protect remaining salt dome hardwoods

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**LA River Basins:** Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Red River, Ouachita



Photo by Thomas G. Barnes  
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## **References:**

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