

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Rudbeckia triloba - three-lobed coneflower Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Rarity Rank: S3/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Range: Eastern half of US and northeastern Canada

Recognition:

- Coarse perennials (or biennials), 0.5 to 1 m tall
- Leaves to 16 cm long and 10 cm wide, variable – often mostly unlobed and usually with a few three-lobed leaves on a single plant
- Flower heads terminate the branches
- Disc flowers dark purple, rays ca 8 and yellow, sometimes with orange bases, 1.5 to 3 cm long

Flowering Time: Peaks in May but flowers may be found well into the summer

Light Requirement: Shade to part shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

FACU – usually occurs in uplands but occasionally found in wetlands

Habitat:

Rich soils of calcareous forests, salt dome hardwood forests, and high sites in bottomland hardwood forests such as natural levees.

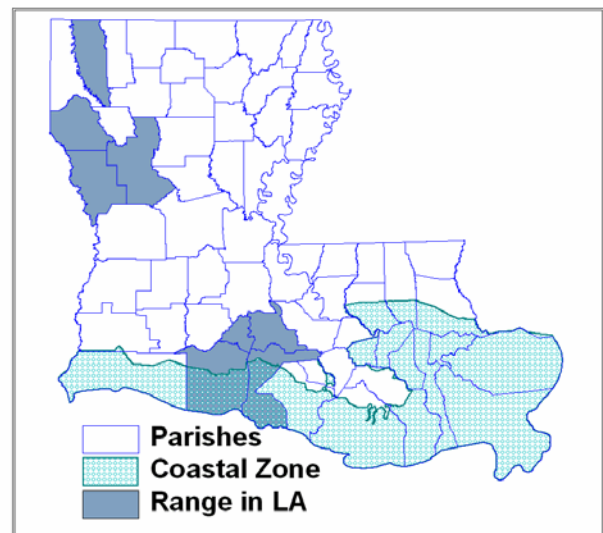
Threats:

- Conversion of natural forests to agriculture (mostly historical)
- Exotic species such as tallow tree and Chinese privet, plus wild hogs

Beneficial Management Practices:

- In general, maintain forest types supporting populations of *R. triloba*
- Permanently protect remaining salt dome hardwood forest
- Control of exotic plants and animals

LA River Basins: Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Sabine, Red



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Left: Profusely flowering colony of *R. triloba*, May 2007, De Soto Parish, LA.

Bottom Left: Close-up of flower head

Below: Several flower heads of *R. triloba* terminating stems.



References:

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Nelson, G. 2005. East Gulf Coastal Plain wildflowers. The Globe Pequot Press. Guilford, CT. 263 pp.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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