**Rare Plants of Louisiana**

**Dalea emarginata - wedge-leaf prairie clover**

Pea Family (Fabaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G5

![Image of Dalea emarginata](image)

**Range:**
- LA, TX, south to Vera Cruz, Mexico
- Known Louisiana occurrences are on beaches between Holly Beach and Johnsons Bayou in Cameron Parish

**Recognition:**
- Annual with taproot, branches erect to leaning and falling over
- Leaves alternate, compound with 13 to 17 leaflets, 2 to 5 cm long
- Flowers occur in spikes, oblong or cylindrical in shape, 1 to 3 cm long and 1 cm thick in fruit, long stalked
- Corollas are small and rose-purple in color with four of the petals inserted below the end of the stamen tube, and one at the base of the stamen tube
- Fruit is a small 1- or 2-seeded pod that is shaggy pubescent above

**Flowering Time:** March to December

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Wetland Indicator Status:** Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

**Habitat:**
Species occurs in dry sandy Gulf beaches and coastal dune grasslands.

**Threats:**
- Shoreline erosion
- Vehicular traffic and other mechanical disturbances
- Cattle grazing

**Beneficial Management Practices:**
- Shoreline protection
- Protection of beaches and sand dunes from cattle and vehicular traffic

**LA River Basins:** Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine
Two examples of *Dalea emarginata* habitat:

**Left:** Coastal dune grassland at Johnsons Bayou

**Below:** Sandy Gulf beach east of Holly Beach

**References:**
