**Rare Plants of Louisiana**

**Physostegia correllii** - Correll’s false dragon-head
Mint Family (Lamiaceae)

**Rarity Rank**: S1/G2

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<td>imperiled</td>
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**Range**: LA, TX, Mexico

**Recognition**:
- Plants robust, somewhat succulent, up to 1 m tall; stems often unbranched
- Hardy perennial with elongate rhizomes
- Mid-stem leaves opposite, sessile (not stalked), usually widest in the middle with large sharp teeth
- Leaves decrease in size from mid- to upper-stem
- Flowers pink and tubular with two lips

**Flowering Time**: May to September

**Light Requirement**: Full sun

**Wetland Indicator Status**: OBL - almost always in wetlands

**Habitat**: Louisiana occurrences are all in roadside ditches. Elsewhere it occurs along river banks, often growing in flowing water. Vigorous growth of rhizomes allows Correll’s false dragon-head to be competitive in disturbed areas. Non-natural habitats such as drainage and irrigation ditches and wet utility ROWs represent potential habitat.

**Threats**:
- Dredging/scraping of ditches for maintenance and installation of water lines and other utilities
- Herbicides used in roadside management
- Exotic invasive species may be a threat, though Correll’s false dragon-head can apparently hold its own against many; one LA population is competing with the exotic torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*) and close monitoring is being carried out
- Apparently naturally rare (?)

**Beneficial Management Practices**:
- Bore underneath populations when installing new water lines or other utilities
- Identify and avoid Correll’s false dragon-head in broad-spectrum herbicide applications
- Control competing non-native plants by hand removal or grass-selective herbicides
Rare Plants of Louisiana

- Increase field survey efforts to detect additional populations

**LA River Basins:** Pearl, Pontchartrain, Barataria, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine

Vegetative material of Correll’s false dragon-head showing unbranched stems, strongly ascending opposite leaves with obvious teeth. St. James Parish, Louisiana.

Flowering and fruiting material of of Correll’s false dragon-head, here competing with the exotic vasey grass (*Paspalum urvillei*).

**References:**


Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
For more information, please visit our Web pages at [http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program](http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program) or 225-765-2811 or 1-800-259-0869