

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Ludwigia sphaerocarpa - grapefruit primrose willow Evening Primrose Family (Onagraceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: NY and MA south to FL, west to TX; also MI and IL

Recognition:

- Erect, diffusely branched perennial, from 0.3 to 1 m tall, with leafy stolons (runners); lower submerged portions of the plant spongy
- Leaves alternate, principle leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 3 to 10 cm long, 0.3 to 0.8 cm wide, pointed at both the tips and bases; leaves of flower-bearing branchlets similar in shape but much reduced in size
- Flowers solitary, in axis of reduced leaves on branchelets; petals absent, sepals 4 and vary from green to yellow-green



Flowering Time: August to October

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Louisiana occurrences are in fresh water floatant marshes, with one record from a roadside ditch. Healthy populations occur at Lacassine Pool in Cameron Parish and in the marsh north of White Lake in Vermilion Parish.

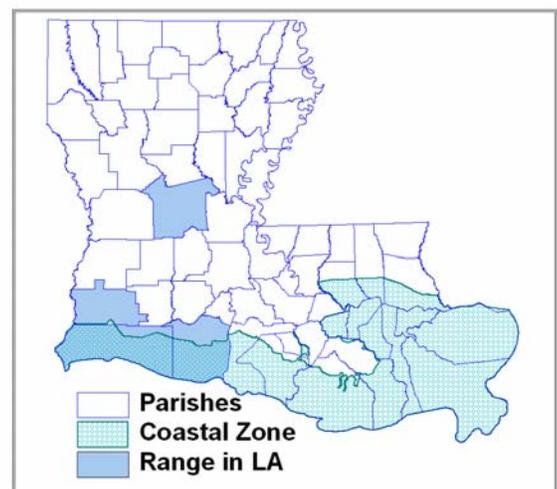
Threats:

- Loss/degradation of freshwater marsh

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protect fresh water floatant marshes
- Conduct more field surveys

LA River Basins: Calcasieu, Mermentau



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Above: Floatant marsh at Lacassine Pool, Cameron Parish.

Right: Plants of *Ludwigia sphaerocarpa*.

References:

- Clewell, A. F. 1985. Guide to the vascular plants of the Florida Panhandle. University Presses of Florida, Florida State University Press, Tallahassee. 605 pp.
- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of southeastern United States: dicotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 933 pp.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>