

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Sarracenia psittacina* - parrot pitcher plant Pitcher Plant Family (Sarraceniaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S3/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** AL, FL, GA, LA, MS

### Recognition:

- A “carnivorous” plant with “pitchers” for trapping invertebrates
- Leaves (“pitchers”) reclining or sprawling, to ca 30 cm tall, with a helmet-like apex
- Flower stalks 15 to 35 cm tall each with a single nodding flower
- Petals maroon, sepals maroon on the outside and green on inside



**Flowering Time:** April (later in year following fire)

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to part shade

### Wetland Indicator Status:

FACW – usually in wetlands

### Habitat:

Wet longleaf pine savannahs and hillside seepage bogs.

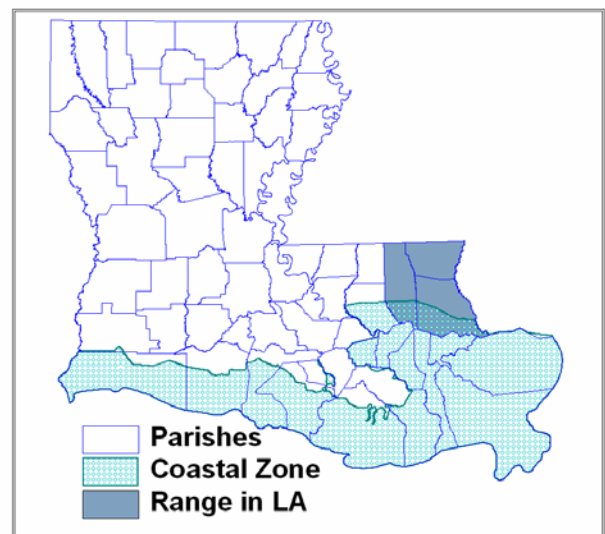
### Threats:

- Residential and commercial development
- Conversion to slash or loblolly pine plantations
- Hydrological alterations (e.g. ditching, dense tree spacing)
- Soil damage from timber harvesting and planting activities (e.g. bedding)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate fire timing
- Off-road vehicle use

### Beneficial Management Practices:

- Use of growing season prescribed fire (April-June) at a frequency of every 1 to 3 years
- No logging during wet periods when the soil is saturated
- No bedding, plowed fire lines or other soil disturbance that may alter natural water flow patterns
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use, or restrict use to pre-existing trails

**LA River Basins:** Pearl, Pontchartrain



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*Sarracenia psittacina* leaves, which are usually reclining and possess helmet-like apices, resembling parrots.

## References:

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.

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

USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

<http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> or 225-765-2811

[www.BTNEP.org](http://www.BTNEP.org) or 1-800-259-0869