

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Tradescantia subaspera - broad-leaved spiderwort Spiderwort Family (Commelinaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State		■			
Global					■
	imperiled		rare		secure



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database

Range: Eastern United States, with the exception of the New England States and IA, MI, MN, and WI

Recognition:

- Sturdy plant 0.5 to 1 m tall, stem with a somewhat zigzag pattern
- Grass-like leaves (though more succulent than a grass) to 20 cm long
- Flowers with three petals, pale to deep blue, rarely white, about 1 to 1.5 cm long
- Sepals pubescent with glandular or non-glandular hairs, or both intermixed
- Leaf blades wider than the sheath, constricted to form a stalk-like (= subpetiolar) base

Flowering Time: May to September

Light Requirement: Full to part shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

Habitat:

Extant Louisiana occurrences are all in rich soils of salt dome hardwood forests. There is a historical specimen from St. Landry Parish apparently from a prairie terrace loess hardwood forest.

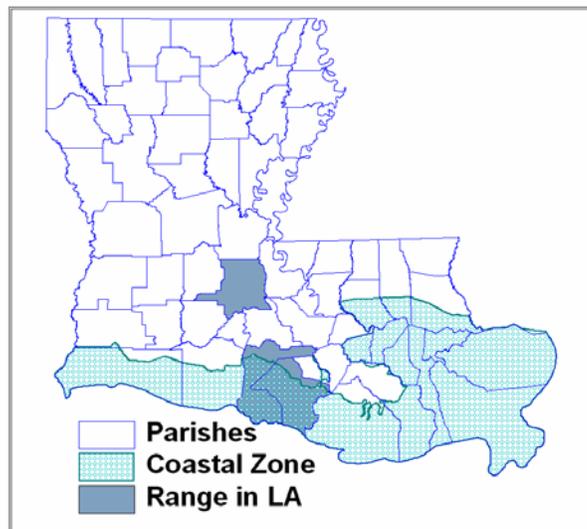
Threats:

- Unnatural rates of erosion
- Exotic plants and animals (e.g. wild hogs)

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protect remaining salt dome hardwood forests
- Control exotic plants in higher quality salt dome forests, prior to them exhibiting “exotic meltdown”
- Kill more wild hogs

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



Rare Plants of Louisiana



J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

References

MacRoberts, D. T. 1980. Notes on *Tradescantia* (Commelinaceae) V. *Tradescantia* of Louisiana. Bulletin of the Museum of Life Sciences. No. 4: 1-15. Louisiana State University, Shreveport.

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

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> or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869