

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Halodule beaudettei* - shoalweed Manatee-grass Family (Cymodoceaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S1S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State	Yellow	Yellow	White	White	White
Global	White	White	White	White	Yellow
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** AL, CA, FL, LA, MS, TX; elsewhere in Gulf and Caribbean, Pacific coast of Panama and Nicaragua

### **Recognition:**

- Submerged “sea grass” in coastal saline waters
- Plants with creeping stolons that root at the nodes, leaves grass-like
- Leaves very narrow, about 1 mm wide, and flattened, 31 to 46 cm long
- Leaf tips have 3 teeth (if tips not broken off)
- Male and female flowers born on separate plants (= dioecious); flowers inconspicuous and born within leaf sheaths
- Fruits tiny, one-seeded, bulb-like

**Flowering Time:** Potentially year-round

### **Wetland Indicator Status:**

OBL – almost always in wetlands

### **Habitat:**

This species forms dense marine grass beds in clear, shallow, saline coastal bays with water depths of ca 0.3 to 0.9 m and salinities ranging from 20 to over 35 ppt.

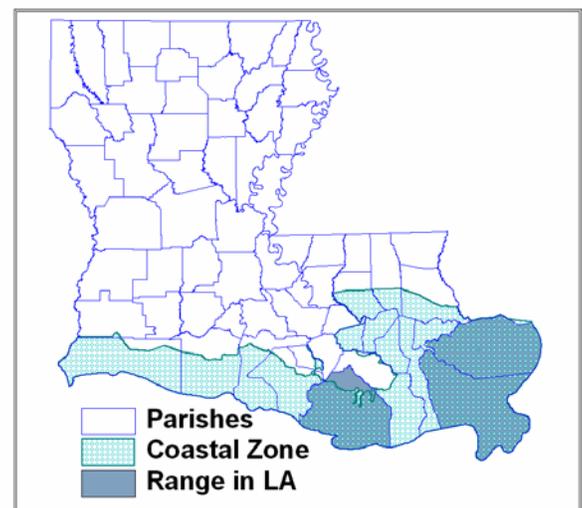
### **Threats:**

- Dredging for channel or pipeline construction
- Any activities that increase turbidity and sediment load
- Spoil deposition on sea grass beds
- Contamination by chemicals

### **Beneficial Management Practices:**

- Protect sea grass beds from mechanical and water quality impacts
- Avoid activities in shallow waters that might increase disturbance and turbidity

**LA River Basins:** Barataria, Mississippi, Pontchartrain, Terrebonne



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Herbarium specimen images of *Halodule beaudettei* showing very narrow “stringy” leaves arising from stolons (runners).

Images courtesy of LSU Herbarium.

## References:

- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of the southeastern United States: Monocotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 712 pp.
- Dressler, R.L., D.W. Hall, K.D. Perkins, & N.H. Williams. 1987. Identification manual for wetland plant species of Florida. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida, Gainesville. 297 pp.
- Stutzenbaker, C. D. 1999. Aquatic and wetland plants of the western Gulf Coast. Texas Parks and Wildlife Press and University of Texas Press, Austin. 465 pp.
- Tiner, R.W. 1993. Field Guide to coastal wetland plants of the southeastern United States. The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst. 328 pp.
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