

Rare Plants of Louisiana

Cyperus cephalanthus – cryptic flatsedge Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G3?Q

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

Range: LA and TX

Recognition:

- Large perennial flatsedge, with several to many stems from short, thick rhizomes
- Stems triangular in cross-section, with sharp angles that are scabrous (with a sandpaper-like texture) in the upper portions
- Foliage sparse, with lower leaves reduced and scale-like
- Inflorescence terminal, subtended by several bracts, at least two of which being well-developed and leaf-like
- Inflorescence an umbel with spikelets densely packed into head-like spikes which are supported by short to long stalks (= peduncles or “rays”) that are up to 9 cm long
- Spikes mature from yellowish-green to straw-colored to eventually brown
- Spikelet axis (= rachilla) persistent following shattering of the spikelet



Flowering/Fruiting Time: May to October

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

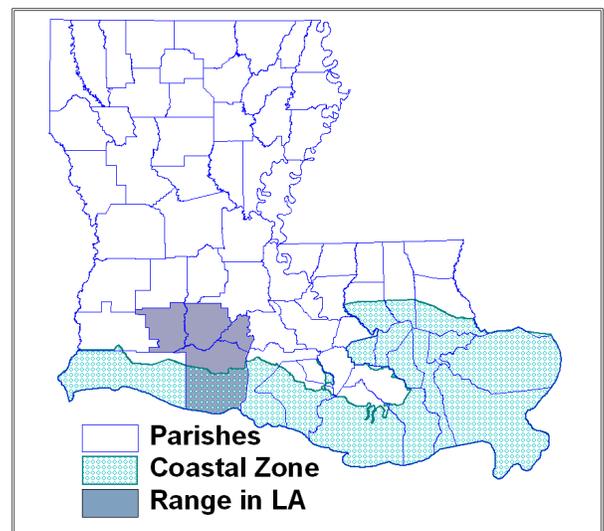
OBL – almost always occurs in wetlands

Habitat:

Fringes of depressions in upland coastal prairie and in marsh-fringing coastal prairie at the junction of prairie and marsh.

Threats:

- Historical conversion of nearly all Louisiana coastal prairie to agriculture
- Invasion of prairie remnants by woody species owing to absence of fire or mowing



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Beneficial Management Practices:

- Liberal use of fire in managing functional remnant prairies
- Use of mowing and bailing hay, and, to the extent practical, fire in roadside and railroad prairie remnants
- Conduct surveys to identify previously undetected prairies

LA River Basins: Mermentau, Vermilion-Teche



References:

Carter, R. and N. McInnis. 1993. Final status report on *Cyperus cephalanthus*. Unpublished report submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, MS. 140 pp.

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Rosen, D. J. and B. J. Christoffersen. 2004. Rediscovery of *Cyperus cephalanthus* (Cyperaceae) in Texas. *Phytologia* 86(2): 107-109.

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

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