



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Cyperus grayoides Mohlenbrock
Illinois Flatsedge, Umbrella-Sedge, Deep Sand Flatsedge



Identification: Perennial herb, with short rhizomes and bearing moniliform tubers. Culms 30-60 cm tall, 0.7-1.2 mm broad, and glabrous. Leaves conduplicate, 2-3.5 mm wide, glabrous, and shorter than the culm. Inflorescence with 3-8 rays subtended by 4-7 conduplicate bracts; spikes spherical, numerous, with the spikelets radiating in all directions; spikelets 4- to 7-flowered, up to 10 mm long; scales loosely imbricate, obtuse, or the terminal scale acute, 9- to 13-nerved, 2.2-2.8 mm long; rachilla wingless. Stamens 3. Style 3-cleft. Achene trigonous, oblong, black, 2-2.6 mm long, apiculate.

Key ID characters:

- Spikes spherical.
- Rachilla wingless.
- Scales subremote, barely reaching the base of the next scale above.
- Achenes 2-2.6 mm long.

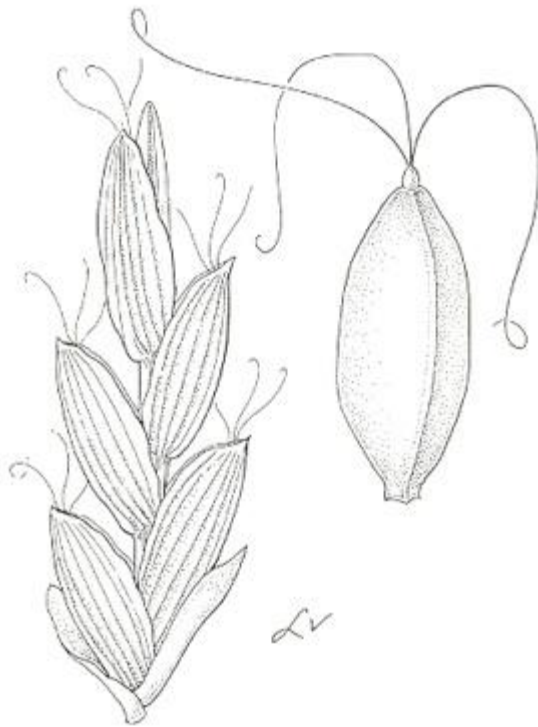


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Habitat: Sandy woodlands.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Cyperaceae. Sometimes referred to as *C. grayioides*, a spelling discrimination. There are nearly 60 taxa of the genus *Cyperus*, including a few varieties and hybrids, known to LA.

Status:

Wetland: No Data

Global: G3 - Vulnerable

State: S2 - Imperiled



Sandy Woodlands

Range: Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas.

Soils: Sandy soils.

Similar Species: *C. grayoides* is noted for its resemblance to *C. grayi*, however they cannot be confused as *C. grayi* is not known to occur in LA. Similar to *C. globulosus* in general features with the achenes 1.5 mm long, elliptic and brown, whereas the achenes of *C. grayoides* are 2-2.6 mm long, oblong and black. *C. retrorsus* differs similarly in achene length.

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, and fire suppression allowing invasion of habitat by woody species.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

Allen, Bienville, Natchitoches, Vernon, and Winn.

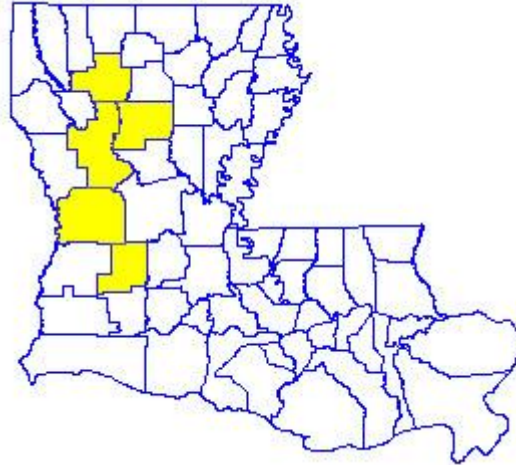
Dates of Natural Heritage Program

Observations:

1987, 1989(2), 1992(3), 1993(4), 1994(11), 1995, 1998

Best Time for Viewing this Species:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Distribution in Louisiana

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