

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Tofieldia racemosa* - coastal false asphodel Lily Family (Liliaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2S3/G5

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

**Range:** TX east to FL, north to TN and NJ

### Recognition:

- Herbaceous perennial from short rhizome, 30 to 70 cm tall with a few basally-disposed linear leaves and showy white flowers in a terminal inflorescence
- Leaves to 40 cm long (length variable) by 3 to 5 mm wide
- Inflorescence a terminal raceme to 15 cm long; flowering scape and inflorescence axis glandular-scabrous
- Flowers with white segments that brown and persist in fruit and borne in clusters of 2 to 7 (usually 3)
- Fruit is a tiny, obovoid capsule that is about 3 mm long
- Seeds are 2 mm long, reddish brown, with membranous tails at the ends that are ½ or less as long as the seed body



**Flowering Time:** June through September

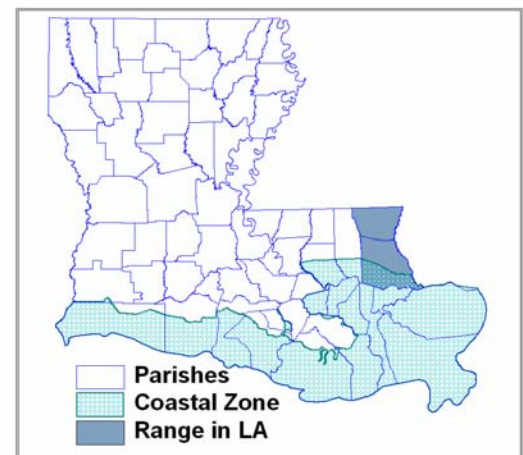
**Light Requirement:** Full sun to part shade

### Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

### Habitat:

Eastern hillside seepage bogs and eastern longleaf pine flatwoods savannahs. Possible for bogs and wet pine savannahs in southwest Louisiana as there are disjunct stations for this species in southeast Texas.



### Threats:

- Conversion of habitat to pine plantations, including chemical and mechanical site prep and dense tree spacing
- Residential or commercial development
- Fire exclusion
- Hydrological alteration by ditching, bedding for tree planting, and lowering of water table due to excessive tree densities

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## Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prescribed burning graduating to growing predominantly growing season (May to June) burns
- Thinning of dense timber stands (harvesting being done only during very dry periods)

## LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 1: 487.



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