

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Schizachyrium maritimum - Gulf bluestem Grass Family (Poaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G3G4Q

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

Range: AL, FL, LA, MS

Recognition:

- Good sized perennial grass of coastal beaches and sand dunes, to 1 m or so tall with inflorescences bearing abundant whitish hairs, appearing beard-like
- Definite long rhizomes (the common and similar *S. scoparium* is tufted or has short rhizomes)
- Sessile spikelet (spikelets born in pairs, one sessile and one stalked (= pedicillate)) 10 mm long
- Pedicellate spikelet reportedly staminate, 4-8.5 mm long, while that of *S. scoparium* is ca 2.5 mm long and sterile



Photo by Larry Allain

Flowering Time: August to November

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

FAC – similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and non-wetlands

Habitat:

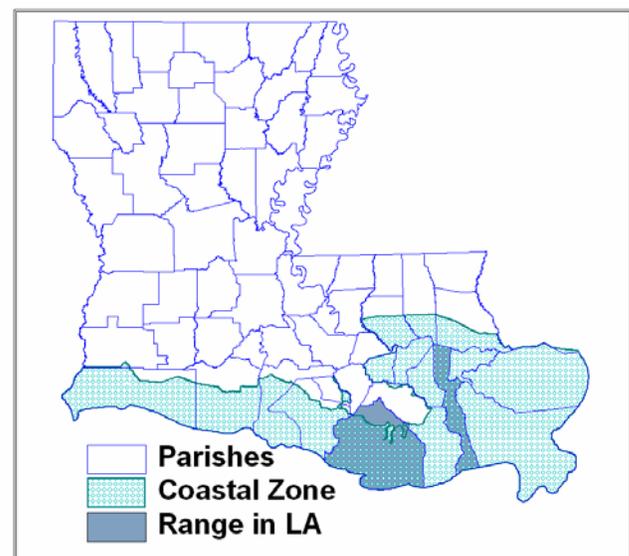
Coastal dune grasslands and high energy Gulf beaches.

Threats:

- Shoreline erosion
- Construction of roads, pipelines or utilities
- Contamination by chemicals or industrial discharge
- Off-road vehicle use
- Overgrazing

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Shoreline or island stabilization
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use on beaches and sand dunes
- Prohibit livestock grazing



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LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne

References:

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