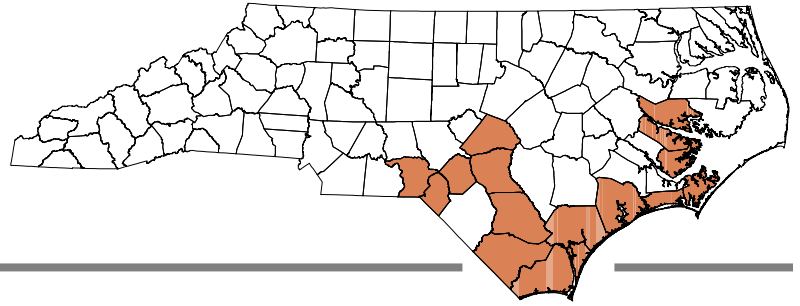


# Rough-leaved loosestrife

*Lysimachia asperulifolia*

Endangered (June 12, 1987)



**Description:** Rough-leaved loosestrife is an erect, rhizomatous perennial, 1-2 feet (30-60 cm) tall. Stems are slender, rarely branched, and glandular, especially near the top. Leaves occur in whorls of 3-4, each 0.8-1.6 inches (2-4 cm) long, 0.3-0.8 inch (0.8-2 cm) wide, lance-shaped, with rounded bases. The leaves attach to the stem directly, with no petiole. Aside from glands near the base and along the veins, the leaves are smooth. Flowers are clustered along the top of the main stalk. Flowers have five yellow petals fused at the base, and five sepals fused together at the base.

**Life History:** Flowering occurs from May to June. Seeds are encased in a rounded capsule 0.12-0.14 inch (3-3.5 mm) long and present from July to October.

**Habitat:** Grass-shrub ecotones where species is found are fire maintained, as are the adjacent plant communities - longleaf pine/scrub oak, pine savanna, flatwoods, and pocosins. Prefers full sunlight; shade intolerant. Grows primarily in ecotones between longleaf pine uplands and pond pine pocosins in dense shrub and vine growth. Has been found in other ecotones as well. Requires disturbed areas where the overstory is minimal. Prefers moist to seasonally saturated sand and shallow organic soil on top of sand (spodosolic soils). Also grows on deep peat soils of Carolina bays. Has been found in roadside depressions, firebreaks, seeps, and powerline rights-of-way.

**Distribution:** Endemic to the coastal plain and sandhills of the Carolinas. Reported in North Carolina in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus\*, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond\*, and Scotland counties.

**Threats:** Habitat degradation and destruction due to suppression of natural fire regime, drainage activities associated with silviculture, agricultural, residential and industrial development. Fire suppression results in increase in density and

height of competing shrubs. Drainage alters hydrology of moist depressions.

**Management Recommendations:** Protection of public and privately owned species population sites and maintenance by periodic prescribed burning regime to impede succession. Protection from adverse habitat alteration by ditching and drainage activities. Collection and storage of seeds and plant material to be used in propagation, research, and restoration projects.

\* No record has been reported in the county for the past 20 years.

Sources: Radford et al. 1964; Smith 1992; USFWS 1992a, 1995c.

