

## CRENULATE LEAD-PLANT

*Amorpha herbacea* Walter  
var. *crenulata* (Rydb.) Isely

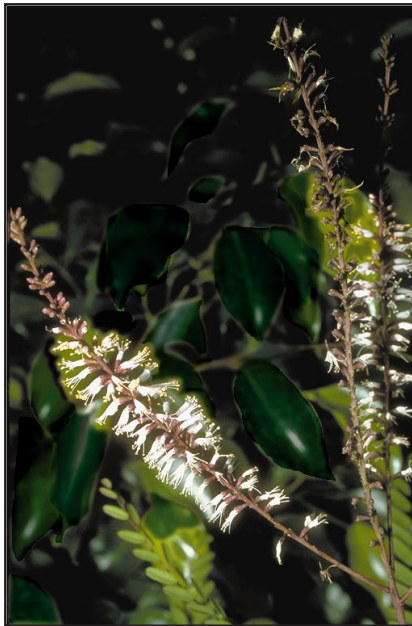
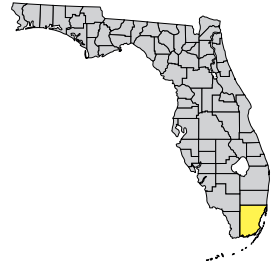
**Synonyms:** *Amorpha crenulata* Rydb.

**Family:** Fabaceae (pea)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4T1/S1

**Legal Status:** US—Endangered FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Billy B. Boothe

**Field Description:** Deciduous **shrub** to 5 feet tall with reddish-purple branches. **Leaves** alternate, with 25 - 33 opposite leaflets; **leaflets** 0.5 - 1.5 inches long, alternate, upper surface gray-green, lower surface paler and dotted with glands; margins scalloped; leaflets with glandular bristle-tips. **Flower spike** 6 - 8 inches long; **flowers** with one white or lavender petal; **calyx** glandular. **Fruit** a flattened pod, usually held erect, less than 0.5 inch long. Plants are smooth and hairless throughout.

**Similar Species:** Lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *herbacea* or var. *floridana*) is hairy and has entire or only slightly scalloped leaflets. False indigobush (*Amorpha fruticosa*) is common throughout FL; it has 9 - 31 leaflets and pink-purple flowers with protruding orange anthers.

**Related Rare Species:** See Ocala vetch (*Vicia ocalensis*), Small's milkpea (*Galactia smallii*), Swartz's snoutbean (*Rhynchosia swartzii*), and meadowvetch (*Aeschynomene pratensis*) in this guide.

**Crenulate lead-plant**      *Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*

**Habitat:** Pine rockland and marl prairie (transverse glades) with slash pine, saw palmetto, wax myrtle, and poisonwood.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers spring–summer. Leaves are distinctive spring–fall.

**Range-wide Distribution:** This variety is endemic to Dade County, FL.

**Conservation Status:** 99% of this species' habitat has been lost to development. Six populations are known, 5 on managed areas (1 is introduced).

**Protection & Management:** Apply prescribed fire every 3 - 7 years to create a mosaic of rockland habitats. Restore and maintain natural hydrology. Control exotic plant species. Purchase remaining rocklands for preservation.

**References:**

Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Isely 1986b, Isely 1990, Nelson 1996, USFWS 1998, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

