

CRENULATE LEAD-PLANT

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

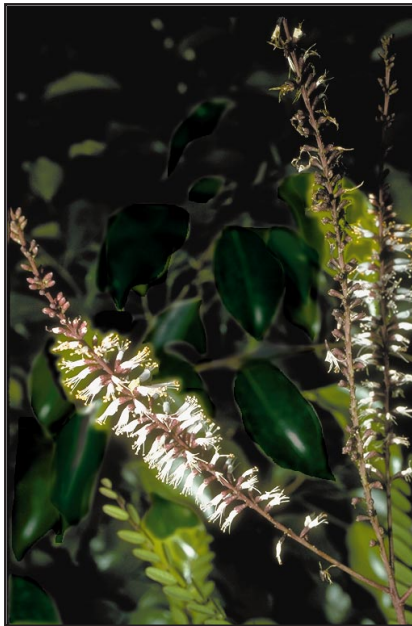
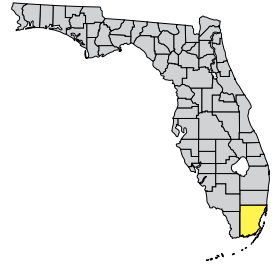
Synonyms: *Amorpha crenulata* Rydb.

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.

