

## HARPER'S BEAUTY

*Harperocallis flava* McDaniel

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Tofieldiaceae (false-asphodel)

**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2

**Legal Status:** US-Endangered FL-Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US-OBL+ FL-FACW



**Field Description:** Perennial **herb**. **Leaves** 2.5 - 8 inches long, all basal, narrow, ribbed, and pointed, flat or slightly twisted, overlapping at base of stem like iris leaves; old leaf bases persistent. **Flower stalk** to 2 feet tall, leafless except for 3 - 5 tiny bracts; 1 flower per stalk. **Flower** with 6 yellow, spreading **tepals** (3 petals + 3 sepals), 6 stamens, and ovary with 3 - 6 lobes. **Fruit** surrounded by erect, leathery tepals, which have darkened to yellow-green with red tips.

**Similar Species:** Fringed yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis juncea*) has similar solitary yellow flowers but leaves that are rolled inward instead of flattened. Rush featherling (*Pleea tenuifolia*) has similar leaves and cooccurs with Harper's beauty.

**Related Rare Species:** Other rare lily family species from the Panhandle included in this guide: panhandle lily (*Lilium iridollae*), narrow-leaved trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*), and Florida merrybells (*Uvularia floridana*).

**Habitat:** Wet prairies and pitcherplant bogs, especially in transitions to pine flatwoods, and on nearby roadsides.

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers in May and fruits visible into early June, plants are nearly invisible at other times of the year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to Franklin, Liberty, and Bay counties, FL.

**Conservation Status:** Discovered in 1965, *Harperocallis flava* is endemic to Florida, occurring in Franklin, Liberty and Bay Counties. It is and restricted to open, boggy wet prairie habitats. All but the Bay County population occur on or very near the Apalachicola National Forest and all but two populations of this species are between the New River and Apalachicola River. Given the very small distribution, the decline in the recent past, genetic constraints, and anthropogenic threats (most notably fire exclusion), this species future is precarious.

**Protection and Management:** Apply prescribed fire every 2 - 3 years. Avoid soil and hydrological disturbances. Avoid spring mowing and herbicide use in road rights-of-way.

**References:** Anderson and Smith 1994, Clewell 1985, Coile 2000, Godt et al. 1997, Kral 1983, McDaniel 1968, USFWS 1983a, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a., USFWS 2016, Gardner 2017