

## YELLOW FRINGELESS ORCHID

*Platanthera integra* (Nutt.) Gray ex Beck

**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Orchidaceae (orchid)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3G4/S2

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Endangered

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



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**Field Description:** Terrestrial orchid to 60 cm tall. One to three lance-shaped leaves 5-20 x 1-3 cm sheath the stem. Leaves are quickly reduced to bracts towards the apex. The 30-65 bright yellow-orange flowers are densely packed into a terminal raceme. Individual flowers 5-6 mm long, with a 6 mm spur; lip petal with a wavy or crenulate margin.

**Similar Species:** The yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), crested fringed orchid (*P. cristata*), and Chapman's fringed orchid (*P. chapmanii*) also have yellow-orange flowers. All three species are easily distinguished from the yellow fringeless orchid by having a fringed lip petal.

**Related Rare Species:** Seven other rare species of *Platanthera* occur in Florida: The state-threatened white fringed orchid (*P. blephariglottis* var. *conspicua*), yellow fringed orchid (*P. ciliaris*), crested fringed orchid (*P. cristata*), palegreen orchid (*P.*

## yellow fringeless orchid

*Platanthera integra*

*flava*), and snowy orchid (*P. nivea*), and the state-endangered Chapman's fringed orchid (*P. chapmanii*) and little club-spur orchid (*P. clavellata*).

**Habitat:** Open wet prairies, wet flatwoods, bogs, seepage slopes, wet pine barrens, and peaty depressions.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer; late July through September.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Southeastern coastal plain from southern New Jersey to Texas.

**Conservation Status:** Largest populations in Florida are in the Apalachicola National Forest. Species has been in decline throughout its range due to habitat destruction from wetland draining.

**Protection and Management:** It is essential to maintain natural hydrology of its habitat and avoid disruptions to the soil with heavy equipment. This species benefits from prescribed burns every 2-3 years.

**References:** Brown 2002, Clewell 1985, Luer 1975, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.



Note lack of fringes on flower lip. © Robert Gundy