

ST. JOHN'S BLACKEYED SUSAN

Rudbeckia nitida Nutt.

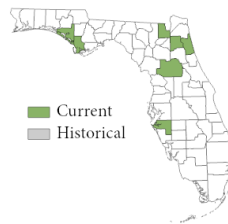
Synonyms: *Rudbeckia glabra* DC.

Family: Asteraceae (composite)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-FACW-+ FL-FACW



John Palis

Field Description: Perennial **herb** with a single, stiff, erect, ribbed **stem**, occasionally branched, topped by a flower head. Stems 20 - 60 inches tall, smooth, not hairy or waxy. Most leaves basal, 4 - 20 inches long, 1 - 3 inches wide, entire or slightly toothed, with long leaf stalks; main veins conspicuous, extending to the leaf tip; leaves further up the stem are smaller and lack leaf stalks. Ray flowers 1.25 - 2 inches long, bright yellow, drooping. Disk flowers purplish-brown, on an elongated, conical disk, 0.75 - 1.5 inches tall.

Similar Species: Mohr's coneflower (*Rudbeckia mohrii*) has very narrow leaves; orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) has numerous clasping leaves on upper stems. Both have yellow, drooping ray flowers, and brown disk flowers on flat, not conical, disks.

Related Rare Species: This species is easily distinguished from eared coneflower

St. John's blackeyed susan

Rudbeckia nitida

(*Rudbeckia auriculata*), which it somewhat resembles, by lacking the strongly auriculate-clasping stem leaves that is characteristic of eared coneflower.

Habitat: Wet or mesic pine flatwoods, bogs, savannas, seepage slopes; roadside ditches.

Best Survey Season: Summer-fall; May - July with a second flowering period September - October.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, GA, AL.

Conservation Status: Only 1 of 13 known populations in Florida occurs on conservation lands, at Jennings State Forest.

Protection and Management: Burn every 2 - 3 years. Avoid ditching, draining, or other alterations to hydrology. Avoid mowing during summer and fall. Avoid mechanical clearing and soil disturbance.

References: Coile 2000, Cox and Urbatsch 1994, Cronquist 1980, Godfrey and Wooten 1981, Kral 1983, Perdue 1962, Perdue 1957, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.