

## OCALA VETCH

*Vicia ocalensis* Godfrey & Kral

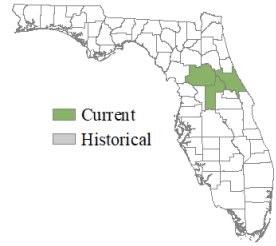
**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Fabaceae (pea)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

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

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



Whitney Costner, Bok Tower Gardens

Bill Parken, FWC

**Field Description:** Perennial vine with nearly hairless stems to 4 feet in length. Leaves are alternate, deciduous, and compound with 2 - 6 leaflets and 1 terminal **tendrils**. Leaflets 1 - 2 inches long, narrowly oblong with rounded tips bearing a tiny bristle. Flowers about 0.5 inch long, lavender blue to white with a faintly striped banner petal; in long-stalked clusters of up to 18 flowers. Fruit a pod, 1.8 inches long, flattened, with 8 - 12 seeds.

**Similar Species:** Florida vetch (*Vicia floridana*) and four-leaf vetch (*Vicia acutifolia*) also occur in wet sites. Florida vetch leaflets are shorter and oval; four-leaf vetch leaves are shorter and narrower. Both have smaller flowers and fruits than Ocala vetch, which is a relatively robust plant and has larger flowers and fruits.

**Related Rare Species:** Many pea family species are rare; for example, sand butterfly pea (*Centrosema arenicola*), state-endangered, and scrub pigeon-wing (*Clitoria fragrans*), state-endangered.

**Habitat:** Open, wet thickets along margins of spring runs and streams.

## Ocala vetch

*Vicia ocalensis*

**Best Survey Season:** Flowers April - May.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to 2 counties in central FL.

**Conservation Status:** Seven occurrences are known in FL, within Ocala National Forest and Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge.

**Protection and Management:** Protect the natural hydrology of spring runs. Prevent disturbance to streambank vegetation.

**References:** Coile 2000, Godfrey and Kral 1958, Isely 1990, Ward 1979, Wunderlin et al. 1980, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.

