

HARPER'S YELLOW-EYED GRASS

Xyris scabrifolia Harper

Synonyms: none

Family: Xyridaceae (yellow-eyed grass)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3S4

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-OBL



No Image
Available

Field Description: A perennial tufted or solitary herb with yellow flowers in a compact, cone-like spike. Growth habit is solitary, or in very small tufts, bulbous-based. Outer leaves scaly, pinkish, then brown. Principle leaves linear, scabrous, dull green, and twisted.

Similar Species: Many of the *Xyris* species can be similar in appearance. *Xyris scabrifolia* is distinguished from the more common *X. platylepis* by its scabrous leaf blades (1 cm wide or less), 4-ridged flowering scape, longer seeds, and generally lower stature.

Related Rare Species: *Xyris calcicola*, *X. chapmanii*, *X. correlliorum*, *X. isoetifolia*, *X. longisepala*, *X. louisianica*, and *X. panacea*.

Habitat: Hillside seepage bogs.

Harper's yellow-eyed grass

Xyris scabrifolia

Best Survey Season: Fall.

Range-wide Distribution: Occurs from South Carolina to southeastern North Carolina, south to the Panhandle of Florida, west to southern Alabama and southern Mississippi, and with disjunct occurrences in southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas.

Conservation Status: There are around 150 occurrences rangewide with the majority found in Florida and Mississippi.

Protection and Management: Needs regular fire to maintain open conditions. Avoid hydrology alteration and restore where possible. Fire suppression (leading to succession of woody vegetation) and land conversion (for development, pine plantations, etc.) are the primary threats to this species. Additional threats include military activities and features to support training, feral pigs that uproot plants and disturb soils, and erosion/siltation/hydrological changes often related to pine plantation management and land development.

References: Kral 1983, NatureServe