

ATAMASCO LILY

Zephyranthes atamasca var. *atamasca* (L.)

Herbert

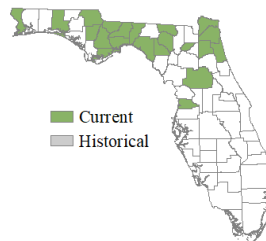
Synonyms: none

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5T4/S4

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-FACW



Field Description: Showy, lily-like flower arising from a perennial underground bulb. The single terminal flower bears 6 large white to pinkish petals that are more than 5 mm long. Leaves are linear, arising at the base of the plant, usually 3-4 mm wide. The stigma exceeds the length of the anthers.

Similar Species: Atamasco lily is distinguished from Treat's zephyrlily (*Z. atamasca* var. *treatiae*) by its wider leaves and a perianth tube that is less than one quarter the length of the perianth. It differs from redmargin zephyrlily (*Z. simpsonii*) by having a style and stigma that exceed the anthers.

Related Rare Species: Redmargin zephyrlily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*), state-threatened, has a stigma that is equal to or shorter than the anthers. Easter lily (*Zephyranthes atamasca* var. *treatiae*), state-threatened, has an overlapping range with atamasco lily in northeast Florida but also extends into central Florida where atamasco lily does not. Easter lily has a perianth tube length at least 1/4 the perianth length, about equal to the filament length and spathe length.

Habitat: Moist hammocks, flatwoods, meadows, pastures and roadsides.

atamasco lily

Zephyranthes atamasca var. *atamasca*

Best Survey Season: Spring.

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern U.S. piedmont and coastal plain from Virginia to Central Florida

Conservation Status: Population is currently secure from Georgia south to NW Florida; less common in central peninsular Florida.

Protection and Management: Protect hardwood forests from disturbance. Control exotics. Protect from poaching.

References: S. Watson 1985