



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Xyris stricta Chapman
Pineland Yelloweyed Grass

Identification: Tufted, usually in large, rigid-leaved, clumps, whose brown, fibrous bases are set on muck or wet sand in shallow water. Leaves narrow linear, (15-) 20-50 cm long, 2-5 mm broad, gradually tapering to a slender, incurved tip, green above the equitant portion (rarely maroon), but reddish-brown or maroon to the base; margins tuberculate or papillate, incrassate; surfaces smooth, very rarely papillate. Sheath of the scape shorter than the leaves, tight and brownish or castaneous below, becoming maroon or green towards the oblique, short-bladed orifice. Scapes linear, 45-85 cm long, roundish toward the base, with a few low, tuberculate, spiral ridges papillate or tuberculate, sometimes accompanied by 2-4 lower ridges between the margins. Spikes oblong, narrowly ellipsoidal or lance-ovoid, 1-2 cm long, blunt, of very many, tightly imbricate scales. Fertile bracts suborbicular, ca. 5-6 mm long, the outer surface castaneous save for the greenish, rectangular dorsal area, the margins entire. Lateral sepals curvate, about the length of the bracts, a lustrous reddish brown, the wings broad and thin, the keel thicker and ciliate from the base to the apex. Blades of petals cuneate, 3.0-3.5 mm long, yellow, unfolding in the late morning, closing in the late afternoon. Seeds ellipsoidal, ca. 0.8 mm long, caudate at one end, opaque, with 18-20 longitudinal rows of dark, contiguous papillae and somewhat less distinct, irregularly disposed cross-lines, all imparting a dark color to the seed, which may also be farinose.

Key ID characters:

- Plant base maroon.
- Leaves spreading.
- Sheaths of the scape (peduncle) exceeded by all of the main leaves.
- Spikes oblong-cylindric, 1-2 cm.
- Keel of lateral sepals with tiny hairs (rather than an irregular margin).
- Tips of sepals not extending past the subtending scale.
- Seed dark when ripe.



X. stricta from *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States: Dicotyledons* by Godfrey and Wooten. Copyright ©1979 University of Georgia Press, Athens, reproduced by permission of the publisher.

Habitat: Cypress flats, bogs, roadside ditches, and pineland ponds.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Xyridaceae. There are about 14 species of the genus *Xyris* represented in LA. Kral designated a new variety of this species, *Xyris stricta* Chapman var. *obscura* Kral (synonymous with *X. louisianica* E. L. Bridges & Orzell).

Status:

Wetland: OBL - Obligate Wetland
 Global: G3G4 - Vulnerable - Apparently Secure
 State: S1 - Critically Imperiled

Range: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas.



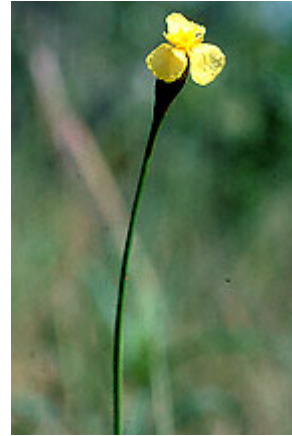
Bog

Soils: Wet sandy peat, sandy clay, peat muck, or alluvium.

Similar Species: The many species of *Xyris* are easily confused. *X. stricta* is most similar to *X. ambigua*, which has paler seeds, spikes are lance-ovoid or ellipsoidal, the plant bases are usually paler in color, and the petals are usually twice the size of *X. stricta*. It should also be noted that the flowers of *X. stricta* open at midday, whereas those of *X. ambigua* open in the morning.



X. drummondii



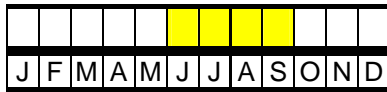
X. ambigua

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, alteration of natural hydrology, and fire suppression allowing invasion by woody species.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:
St Tammany

Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:
1991(4)

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

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