

Rare Plants of Louisiana

Asclepias incarnata - swamp milkweed Milkweed Family (Asclepiadaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: FL west to NM, north to Nova Scotia and Manitoba

Recognition:

- Robust perennial milkweed from a short rootstock, to 2 m tall in our area; has milky sap which is characteristic of most milkweeds
- Leaves are numerous, opposite, linear-lanceolate to ovate-elliptic, 6 to 15 cm long to 4 cm broad with rounded to heart-shaped bases and acute to acuminate tips
- Flower color is bright rose-purple (rarely white)
- Fruit is an erect follicle (“pod”), seeds with a long tuft of hairs at one end which allows wind dispersal



Jennifer Anderson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Flowering Time: June to September

Light Requirement: Full sun to partial shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – Almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Louisiana occurrences are in freshwater swamps and marshes. May also occur in ditches.

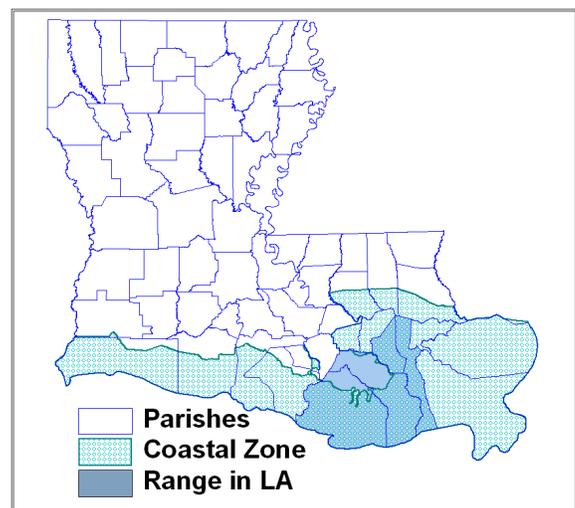
Threats:

- Subsidence of fresh marsh
- Saltwater intrusion

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protection of freshwater marshes and swamps
- Conduct more field survey work in order to determine current status in Louisiana

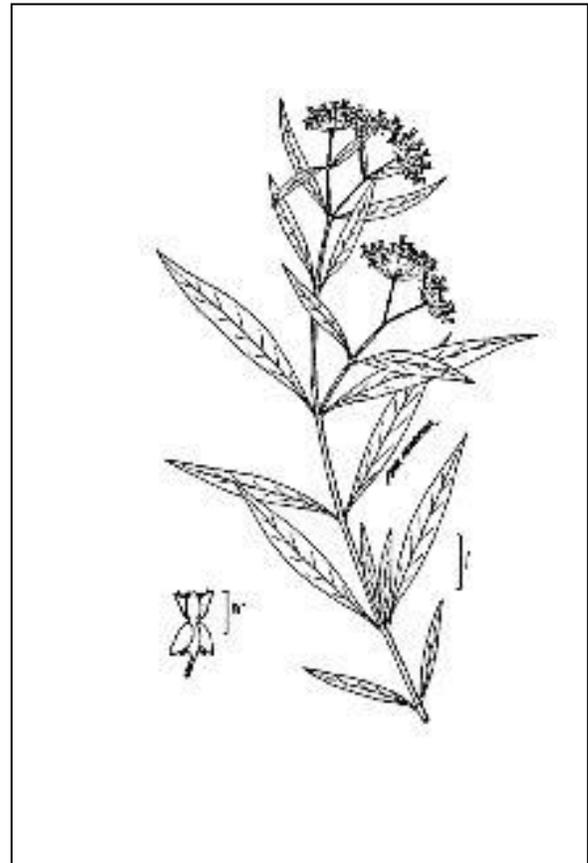
LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne



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USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 3: 26.



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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869