



# Rare Plants of Louisiana

## *Amorpha paniculata* – paniced indigobush Legume/Bean Family (Fabaceae)

**Rarity Ranks:** S1S2/G2G3

**Range:** AR, LA, OK, TX

**Recognition:**

- 1) Shrub to about 6 feet tall
- 2) Pinnately compound leaves 8 - 14" long with 13 to 19 leaflets
- 3) Leaflets 1-3" long with conspicuous net-like venation and wooly hairs beneath
- 4) Flowers purple and gold on racemes 8-16" long
- 5) Robust cluster of racemes exerted above foliage
- 6) Fruit is a tiny legume about ¼" long

**Flowering Time:** late May – early June  
Will flower later if stem mechanically cut (e.g. bush hogged) and presumably if burned

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to part shade

**Wetland Status:** FACW - usually occurs in wetlands

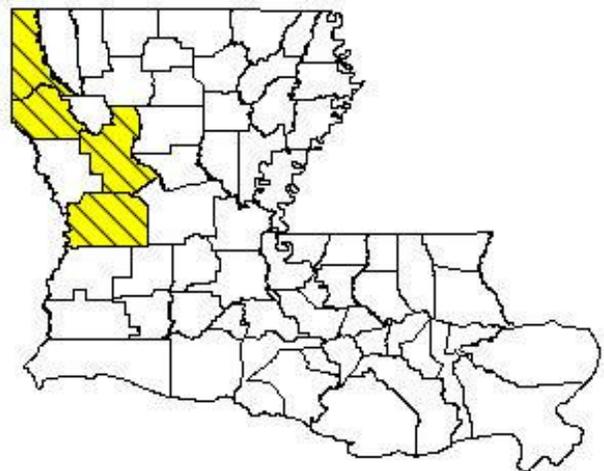
**Habitats:** Beaver ponds, lake shores, beside streams, stream valley seepage bogs, ditches and roadsides, forested seeps/bayhead swamps, and interior fresh and saline marshes. Associates observed at Louisiana sites include loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), St. Andrew's cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*), waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

**Threats:**

- 1) Forest type conversion
- 2) Overstocking (shading)
- 3) Hydrological alterations including construction of ponds/private lakes with control structures which interrupt natural flow and cause dewatering of downstream habitats during dry conditions

**Beneficial management practices:**

- 1) Thinning and burning
- 2) Hand clearing, injecting, and/or dropping and leaving a few trees to allow more sunlight if commercial thinning is not practical
- 3) Refrain from altering hydrology of natural herbaceous wetland systems such as bogs and marshes





# Rare Plants of Louisiana



Closer view of flowers

Panicled indigobush single leaf – ruler = 2” long. Photo provided by LSU Herbarium

## References:

Correll, D. S. and M. C. Johnston. 1979. Manual of the vascular flora of Texas. The University of Texas at Dallas. 1881 pp.

Isley, D. 1990. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States, Vol. 3, Part 2, Leguminosae (Fabaceae). The University of North Carolina Press. 258 pp.

Lasseigne, A. 1973. Louisiana legumes. Southwestern Studies: Science Series, No. 1. University of Southwestern Louisiana. 255 pp.

NatureServe. 2006. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: February 5, 2007 ).