

MANY-FLOWERED GRASS-PINK

Calopogon multiflorus Lindl.

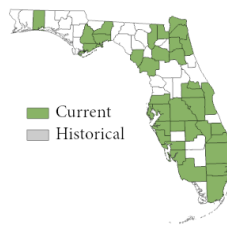
Synonyms: *Calopogon barbatus* (Walt.) Ames
var. *multiflorus* (Lindl.) Correll

Family: Orchidaceae (orchid)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FACW+ FL-FACW



Michelle Smith

Field Description: Herb with 1 - 2 basal, grass-like leaves 4 inches long and less than 0.2 inch wide. Flower stalk leafless, to 16 inches tall, with up to 15 dark pink flowers crowded at the top, most open at the same time. Petals spreading, widest above the middle, with narrow base (claw) and bluntly pointed tip; middle sepal less than 0.8 inch long; lateral sepals spreading but not reflexed backwards; lip upright and triangular with a crest of orange bristles. Floral bracts 5-10 mm long; Fruit 0.4 inches long.

Similar Species: Bearded grasspink (*Calopogon barbatus*) has petals widest below the middle, with 5 or fewer flowers open at one time; floral bracts are 2-4 mm long; it occurs in wet flatwoods. Pale grasspink (*Calopogon pallidus*) flowers are usually white or pale pink and the lateral sepals are reflexed backwards. Tuberous grasspink (*Calopogon tuberosus*) leaves are wider than 0.2 inches, the middle sepal is more

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than 0.8 inch long, and the petals are widest below the middle.

Related Rare Species: More than 70 species of native orchids are endangered or threatened in Florida.

Habitat: Dry to moist flatwoods with longleaf pine, wire grass, saw palmetto.

Best Survey Season: Plants respond quickly to a burn, generally flowering around two weeks after a fire, but response time varies based on the time of year.

Range-wide Distribution: Throughout most of Florida, west to Mississippi and north to Georgia.

Conservation Status: Although known historically throughout FL and on many managed areas, this orchid is now rare due to fire suppression and conversion of habitat to pine plantations.

Protection and Management: This species is highly fire-dependent. Burn flatwoods every 2-3 years with an emphasis on growing season fires to promote flowering. Protect flatwoods from draining, bedding, clearcutting, roller-chopping and other soil and hydrology disturbances.

References: Coile 2000, IRC 1999, Luer 1972, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.