

LARGE-LEAVED GRASS-OF-PARNASSUS

Parnassia grandifolia DC.

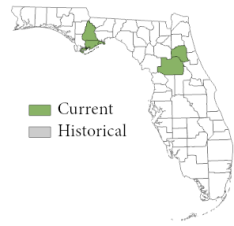
Synonyms: none

Family: Celastraceae (bittersweet)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-OBL+ FL-OBL



Amy Jenkins

Field Description: **Herbaceous perennial** with thickened base. **Stems** up to 75 cm tall, leafless except for one, sessile, roundish bract (up to 4 cm long), that is near the lower third of the stem. **Leaves** in basal rosettes, on long petioles, oval-round shaped, 2.5-8 cm long and 2-7 cm wide. Each leaf has one main vein in the middle of the leaf with 4 lateral veins paralleling the main vein. **Flowers** are solitary and terminal on a long stalk and are composed of 5 sepals, and 5 very showy white petals (up to 2 cm long and 1 cm wide) that have 5-9 green veins. **Ovary** is green and fruit is a capsule that has green sepals reflexed around it.

Similar Species: Large-leaved grass-of-parnassus resembles Carolina grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia caroliniana*) but they can be separated based on the latter having a white ovary and 9-18 yellow-brown-green veins on the petals with the lower-most vein branching.

large-leaved grass-of-parnassus

Parnassia grandifolia

Related Rare Species: Carolina grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia caroliniana*), is state-endangered.

Habitat: Wet habitats including open grassy wet prairies and seepage slopes as well as hydric hammocks and edges of swamps along rivers and streams.

Best Survey Season: Fall; November - January

Range-wide Distribution: Extends from Florida north into Virginia and west to Texas and Arkansas. Within Florida, large-leaved grass-of-parnassus is only known to occur in four counties: Marion, Putnam, Franklin, and Liberty.

Conservation Status: Large-leaved grass-of-parnassus is rare throughout its limited range, making it especially threatened by land-use conversion and habitat fragmentation. Intense forest management practices irreparably damage the habitat for this species.

Protection and Management: Limit access to maintain quality of site and protect upstream creek and floodplain from disturbances.

References: Chafin 2000, FNA 2016, Herring and Schultz 2003, Southern Appalachian Species Viability Project 2002, Ward 1979.