

## FLORIDA MOUNTAIN-MINT

*Pycnanthemum floridanum* E. Grant & Epling

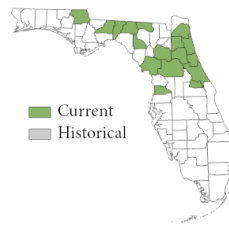
**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S3

**Legal Status:** US-none FL-Threatened

**Wetland Status:** US-FAC-+ FL-FAC



Kimberely Gullledge

**Field Description:** Perennial herb to several feet tall with square stems. **Leaves** are opposite with slightly toothed margins and a pleasant spearmint odor when crushed. Toward the top of the plant, leaves become whitish bracts with flowers developing in tight axillary clusters. The typical mint-type **flowers** are white with pink/purple spots.

**Similar Species:** Plants are very distinctive in flower, when the upper leaves develop a grayish-white appearance. The pleasant spearmint odor is also a good way to distinguish vegetative plants from the similar horsemint (*Monarda punctata*), since that species has a disagreeable mint smell.

**Related Rare Species:** Several rare species in the mint family (Lamiaceae) occur in Florida. No rare mints in Florida looks similar to *Pycnanthemum floridanum* when flowering.

## Florida mountain-mint

*Pycnanthemum floridanum*

**Habitat:** Roadside ditches and in sandhill communities in moist areas.

**Best Survey Season:** Summer-fall.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Restricted to Georgia and Florida south to Hernando County.

**Conservation Status:** Less than 40 known occurrences in Florida, with few populations appropriately protected and managed. This species is threatened by drainage alterations, intense site preparation for forestry and overshadowing.

**Protection and Management:** Plants are shade-intolerant and will decrease with canopy closure. Natural habitat seems to be marginal areas with more hardwood growth in the understory, rather than in very open, grassy pine woods. Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) and Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) are major threats to this species.

**References:** Kartesz 1994, Schultz 1993, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011, Wunderlin et al. 2018.