

THREATS TO FLORIDA'S BROMELIADS:

- Illegal harvesting from nature.
- Loss of habitat, including drainage of wetlands.
- Invasive weevil pest: Up to 12 species of native bromeliads in Florida now face their greatest threat ever, from a voracious, bromeliad-eating weevil (Mexican bromeliad weevil).

WHAT WE GAIN BY SAVING OUR NATIVE BROMELIADS:

- An attractive addition to state and local parks.
- A unique natural attraction, benefiting the growing ecotourism industry.
- A home and water source for many animals.
- A source of biological diversity.
- A resource for environmental education.

CONSEQUENCES OF LOSING OUR BROMELIADS:

- Loss of up to 12 species of native plants.
- Loss of at least 15 animal species that depend on them.
- Additional unknown disruptions to the ecosystem.
- Negative effects on ecotourism as a result of diminishing the beauty and uniqueness of Florida's natural areas.

DON'T let more bromeliad weevils become established in Florida: Practice responsible importation and movement of ornamental bromeliads.

For more information on bromeliads and bromeliad weevils, or to become involved in the Save Florida's Native Bromeliads project, visit the following Web sites:

<http://SaveBromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://BromeliadBiota.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://fcbs.org>
<http://www.floridalove.org>

Or contact Dr. J. Howard Frank's lab:

Univ. of Florida, Entomology & Nem. Dept.
Box 110620, Gainesville, FL 32611
Tel: (352) 392-1901 ext. 128 or 122
email: jhf@ifas.ufl.edu
or BCLarson@ifas.ufl.edu

To support the FCBS Weevil Fund, contact:

Ed Hall, FL Council of Bromeliad Societies
1111 Glen Gary Circle, Maitland, FL 32751
Tel: (407) 647-2039
email: palmtribrom@aol.com

To report unknown weevils in bromeliads, call the Division of Plant Industry at (352) 372-3505 to find your nearest Plant Inspector.



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FLORIDA'S NATIVE BROMELIADS NEED YOUR HELP



BROMELIADS

Florida's 16 bromeliad species usually grow as epiphytes (attached to tree trunks and branches). They absorb water and minerals from the air, causing no harm to the trees on which they grow. For that reason, they are often called airplants. Bromeliads grow mainly in cypress swamps, oak hammocks, and pinelands. The rarer species are found only in the Everglades region. The State of Florida lists 10 bromeliad species as endangered or threatened.

