

Florida's Native Bromeliads:

Cardinal Airplant



Scientific name:

Tillandsia fasciculata

Former name: *T. hystricina*

Other common names: Quill-leaf airplant, common wild pine, clustered wild pine, dog-drink-water

Status in Florida: Endangered (listed as a result of Mexican bromeliad weevil attack)

Threats to this plant in Florida:

Mexican bromeliad weevil (*Metamasius callizona*), illegal collecting, habitat destruction



Distribution: Florida, West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America

Distribution in Florida: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, Seminole, and Volusia Counties

Occurrence in Florida: Frequent before weevil attack

Habitat: Hammocks, cypress swamps, pinelands

Description: Tank epiphyte; plants often grow in clusters; 20-50 leaves, long, stiff and leathery (grayish-green, scaly, brownish at base), 30-70 cm (12-28 in.) long, wider at base and tapering to a pointed tip; inflorescence 30-60 cm (12-24 in.) tall, spikes 7-15 cm long, 3-15 side branches; floral bracts usually bright red but many color forms exist in Florida, including yellow, green, and rose; 10-50 flowers; petals violet or rarely white, 4.5 cm (1 3/4 in.) long; seeds in capsule 3 cm (1 1/8 in.) long; seeds windborne

Time of flowering: All year, esp. spring to early summer

References

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