

Florida's Native Bromeliads: Southern Needleleaf

Scientific name: *Tillandsia setacea* Swartz

Other common name: Needle-leaf airplant

Former name: *Tillandsia tenuifolia* L.

Status in Florida: Not listed as threatened

Threats to this plant in Florida:

Habitat destruction



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

Distribution in Florida: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia Counties

Occurrence in Florida: Common

Habitat: Hammocks and swamps

Description: Epiphytic; grows to 30 cm (12 in.) long; plants densely clustered, growing as aggregates of small tufts; leaves dilated at base, flexuous at tips, green to reddish-green in color; flower stalk 8-15 cm (3-6 in.); 3-15 flowers, 2.5 cm (1 in.) long; violet petals; seed capsule up to 3 cm (1 1/8 in.) long; similar to *Tillandsia bartramii* except leaves green or reddish and floral bracts green, tinged with red

Time of flowering: Spring - fall

References

- Flora of North America Association. 2000. *Flora of North America*, Vol. 22. <http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/FNA>
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- Long, Robert W. and Olga Lakela. 1976. *A Flora of Tropical Florida*. Banyan Books, Miami.
- Wunderlin, Richard P. 1982. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central Florida*. University Presses of Florida, Tampa.
- Wunderlin, Richard P. and Bruce F. Hansen. 2000. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*. Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa. <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>