

Bartram's rosegentian

(*Sabatia decandra*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Bartram's rosegentian is a dazzling pink wildflower found naturally in wet pinelands, freshwater marshes, pond margins and in wet ditches. It blooms late spring into late summer or early fall.

Its showy blooms are typically comprised of 10 bright-pink petals (although they can number between 8 and 14). The base of each petal is yellow with a red outline, which forms a starburst-like shape in the center of the bloom where they come together. The stigma is also yellow and prominent; it twists and protrudes from an obvious green ovary. Basal leaves are oblong to spatulate and somewhat succulent.

They emerge in spring, but disappear as the plant begins to bloom. Stem leaves are smaller (about 1"), linear and sessile with entire margins. They are oppositely arranged. Stems are branched.

The common name pays homage to William Bartram, an American naturalist and botanist who explored the southern U.S. in the mid- to late-1700s. The species epithet was originally *bartramii*, but was changed to *decandra*, referring to the flower's (typical) 10 petals and 10 stamens.



Photo by Stacey Matrazzo

Family: Gentianaceae (Gentian family)

Native range: Nearly throughout

To see where natural populations of Bartram's rosegentian have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 7–10

Lifespan: Perennial (but has been known to act as an annual)

Soil: Moist to wet

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: 1–3' tall

Propagation: Seed (self-propagates by underground rhizomes)

Bartram's rosegentian plants are not generally propagated for commercial sale. Visit a sunny wetland this summer to enjoy their spectacular blooms.