

Marsh-pink

(*Sabatia grandiflora*)

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

Also known as Largeflower rosegentian, Marsh-pink is a beautiful herbaceous wildflower found in moist, open areas throughout Florida. Its showy blooms are comprised of five bright pink petals. The base of each petal is yellow with a red outline; they come together to form a star in the center of the bloom. The stigma is also yellow and prominent; it twists and protrudes from an obvious green ovary. Leaves are linear to filiform and opposite.

Marsh-pink occurs naturally in mesic pine flatwoods and wet prairies, as well as along margins of freshwater marshes. It is a summer bloomer in northern Florida, but can bloom year-round in southern Florida.

Marsh-pink is almost endemic, occurring in only one county in Alabama outside of the state of Florida.

Family: Gentianaceae (Gentian family)

Native range: Peninsula and some Panhandle counties

To see where natural populations of Marsh-pink have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Hardiness: Zones 8–11

Soil: Damp to wet, rich soil

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: 1–3' tall

Propagation: Seed

Garden tips: Marsh-pink is not widely cultivated as it does not tolerate root disturbance. It does, however, produce an abundance of seeds that are easily sown.



Photo by Mary Keim