

Largeleaf rosegentian

(*Sabatia macrophylla*)

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

Largeleaf rosegentian is a strikingly white wildflower that occurs in wetland savannas, wet pinelands and even roadside ditches in Florida's Panhandle and northeast corner. Its erect stature and height (up to 4 ft tall) set it apart from other native white-flowered *Sabatia* species.



Photo by Emily Bell

Individual flowers have five white petals and five white stamens that surround a pale-yellow pistil. They are born in terminal clusters from branched stems that are smooth and light green. The light green leaves are simple and lanceolate with a prominent mid-vein. They are erect to erecto-patent and oppositely arranged on the stem. The leaves and stems have a waxy texture that appears as a whitish film when wet.

The genus *Sabatia* is most likely a reference to Liberato Sabbati (1714–1778), an Italian botanist. The species epithet *macrophylla* is from the Greek *makros*, or "large," and *phyllon*, or "leaf," and along with the common descriptor, "largeleaf," refers to the plant's sizable leaves.

Family: Gentianaceae (Gentian Family)

Native range: Panhandle and northeast Florida

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

Hardiness: Zones 8A–9A

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moist to wet sandy soils

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: Up to 4 feet tall

Largeleaf rosegentian is not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see it.



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Florida Wildflower Foundation • P O Box 941691, Maitland, FL 32794-1691 • 407-622-1606 • www.FlaWildflowers.org

