

Summer farewell

(*Dalea adenopoda*)

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

Among the vibrant yellows and purple hues of fall's Florida wildflowers are some equally beautiful bright whites! This includes Summer farewell, also commonly known as Tampa prairie clover. Summer farewell lights up the dry sandy pine flatwoods of Central and South Florida as their abundant blooms beckon numerous pollinators including bees and butterflies. When they go to seed in early winter, song birds enjoy the seeds.



Photo by Emily Bell

Summer farewell's flowers are born in terminal heads. Flower buds are concealed by red ovate bracts. Each bud opens to reveal up to 30 white to pinkish-white flowers. Leaves are small and fascicled with three to seven elliptical leaflets. They are pale green and often involute.

Another species of Summer farewell (*Dalea pinnata*) is found throughout North and Central Florida. The two species could easily be confused by the flowers alone; however, a closer look reveals a distinct difference in leaflet shape: *D. pinnata* leaflets are linear, while *D. adenopoda* leaflets are elliptical.

Family: Fabaceae (Legume, bean or pea family)

Native range: Endemic to peninsular Florida from Lake County south to Collier and Broward counties

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

Hardiness: Zones 9B–10B

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Well-drained sand

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Growth habit: Upright shrub up to 3 feet tall

Propagation: Seed

Summer farewell is not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see it.



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