Florida bonamia
(Bonamia grandiflora)

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

Also known as Florida lady's nightcap and Scrub morning glory, Florida bonamia is a rare, perennial flowering vine. Its showy blooms vary slightly in color from a bright blue in the morning to a pale lavender by the afternoon, at which time, the blooms close. They are solitary, five-lobed and funnel-shaped with white throats. Leaves are grayish-green and ovate with pointed tips, entire margins and tiny hairs. They are alternately arranged. Stems are hairy and herbaceous, arising in multiples from a single woody root mass and extending outward in different directions along the ground. Fruits are capsules that usually contain four smooth, oblong seeds.

Photo by Stacey Matrazzo

Florida bonamia typically blooms spring through fall. It occurs naturally in sand pine scrub. Florida bonamia is endemic to Central Florida, and is a federally threatened and state-listed endangered species. Its populations have declined in recent decades due to development of its habitat for residential areas and agriculture (primarily citrus groves). Only about 100 populations remain, 35 of which are protected in 15 managed areas.

Florida bonamia is adapted to occasional fire, which helps clear brush and minimize canopy species, creating the open, sunny areas that the plant requires. Thus, fire suppression or exclusion is also a factor in this species' imperilment.

Bonamia grandiflora is the only species of *Bonamia* native to the continental United States.

Family: Convolvulaceae (Morning glory family)
Native range: Central peninsula, primarily along the Lake Wales Ridge and in the Ocala National Forest
  To see where natural populations of Florida bonamia have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.
Lifespan: Perennial
Soil: Very dry, sandy soils
Exposure: Full sun
Growth habit: Trailing, 3-4 feet in length

Florida bonamia is not commercially available. Visit a natural area to see them.

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