

# Pineland chaffhead

(*Carphephorus carnosus*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Pineland chaffhead is a short-lived perennial wildflower that occurs naturally in wet pine flatwoods, savannas and seepage slopes. It typically blooms in late summer through early fall and attracts butterflies, moths and other pollinators. It is endemic to only 13 Central and South Florida counties.

The plant's many purple rayless flowers are born in broad terminal corymbs. Each flower is held by several hairy, spine-tipped bracts. The flower stalk emerges from a basal rosette of narrow, pointed leaves with entire margins. Stem leaves are significantly reduced. Stems are finely pubescent. Fruits are whitish pubescent achenes.



Photo by Mary Keim

Some botanists have separated most species of the genus *Carphephorus* into the genera *Litrisa* and *Trilisa*. Both genera names are anagrams of the genus *Liatris*, whose flowers have a similar appearance to *Carphephorus* flowers. Pineland chaffhead is the only species that was placed into the genus *Litrisa*; its alternate binomial is *Litrisa carnosa*.

**Family:** Asteraceae (Aster, composite or daisy family)

**Native range:** Central peninsula south to Lee and Palm Beach counties

To see where natural populations of Pineland chaffhead have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Lifespan:** Short-lived perennial

**Soil:** Wet to moderately dry sandy soils

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Growth habit:** 1–2' tall

**Propagation:** Seed

**Florida regions of landscape suitability:** Central, South

**Garden tips:** Pineland chaffhead is drought tolerant in winter and spring, but needs plenty of water to survive the hot summer months.

Pineland chaffhead is occasionally available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit [www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a nursery in your area.

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