

# Florida paintbrush

(*Carphephorus corymbosus*)

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

Also known as Coastalplain chaffhead, Florida paintbrush is a showy herbaceous wildflower that blooms from late summer into fall. It occurs naturally in pine, scrubby and dry to mesic flatwoods, sandhills and ruderal areas. Its large, striking flower clusters are very attractive to butterflies and other pollinators.

Flowers are born in large flat-topped corymbs.

Each bloom is comprised of many bright pink to lavender tubular disk florets and no ray florets. The inflorescence appears atop an erect, unbranched stem that arises from a basal rosette. Basal leaves are flat, linear and succulent in appearance; stem leaves are sessile and alternately arranged. Stems are covered in tiny hairs. The fruit is an achene-like cypsela with a rough surface and a tuft of bristly hairs.

The species epithet *corymbosus* is from the Latin *corymbus*, meaning “cluster of fruit or flowers.”

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

**Native range:** Peninsular Florida, Bay and Jackson counties

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

**Lifespan:** Perennial

**Soil:** Dry well-drained, sandy soils

**Exposure:** Full sun to minimal shade

**Growth habit:** 2–3' tall when blooming

**Propagation:** Seed

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

**Garden tips:** Florida paintbrush is a star for attracting butterflies and makes a great addition to formal and naturalistic landscapes. It is easy to integrate and maintain. Spent flowerheads can be left until spring for added color interest or cut to collect seed.

Florida paintbrush is often available at nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit [www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a native nursery in your area.



Photo by Emily Bell

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