

Pineland chaffhead

(*Litrisa carnosa*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit 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

There is currently a lack of genetic clarity among the genera *Carphephorus*, *Trilisa* and *Litrisa*, and additional research is needed to reach a more unanimous agreement on their classifications. This species has been previously classified as *Carphephorus carnosus* and is still referred to as such in many resources. *Litrisa* and *Trilisa* are anagrams of the genus *Liatris*, whose flowers have a similar appearance to *Carphephorus* flowers.

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.

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 to find a nursery in your area.

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