

Lyreleaf Bladder-pod

LBP09272016

IDENTIFICATION: Lyreleaf Bladder-Pod (*Paysonia lyrata*), is a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). This species is endemic to three counties in Alabama and was [listed as a threatened species](#) on 9-28-1990. It is an annual herb occupying thin soils on and adjacent to limestone cedar glade outcrops. It grows 4 - 12 inches tall with small yellow flowers blooming from March to early May. Seeds are dispersed in late April and May. The plant becomes dormant during the summer months with seeds germinating in the fall, overwintering as a rosette.

None of the three endemic populations in Alabama occur on relatively pristine cedar glades. Plants are mostly located in disturbed habitats including pastures, fields and roadsides. Historically, this species relied on natural disturbance to impede woody encroachment and renew seed banks. Populations have disappeared following extended periods with no ground disturbance and then reappeared after some type of disturbance. Seeds are reported to survive in the seed bank for more than 10 years.



No critical habitat was designated at the time of listing.

FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS: This species needs full sun and has trouble competing with larger invading perennials and woody plants. Road construction, heavy cattle grazing and herbicide use may damage or kill this species.

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY: Currently this species occurs only in Colbert, Franklin and Lawrence counties. The largest population is in Lawrence County where plants receive the protection of being located on a 40-acre Nature Conservancy preserve (Prairie Grove Glade).

Photo Credits: Dr. T. Wayne Barger, Natural Heritage Section, Alabama State Lands Division



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