

## Native Orchid of the Month—March

### *Calopogon multiflorus* (many-flowered grass-pink)

*Calopogon multiflorus* (many-flowered grass-pink) can be found in dry to moist flatwoods and on mesic longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) savannahs on flat or gently-sloping terrain. Large areas of suitable habitat have since been lost from logging and fire suppression.

The soil it grows in is usually sandy to loamy and acidic. Other species that are found growing nearby in the same habitat are longleaf pine, blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*), slender bluestem (*Schizachyrium tenerum*), and little bluestem (*S. scoparium*) grasses.



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Characteristics of *C. multiflorus* are a dark purple rachis, a forked corn; fiddle-shaped lateral petals; elongated, acuminate floral bracts; and a pungent floral fragrance at peak blooming. A single leaf, or sometimes two, appears clasping the up to 6-inch tall bloom stem. When the flower buds mature, they open in quick succession. Sometimes, it takes only two days for all of the flowers to open. They remain open for a couple days before withering and dropping to the ground.

The flowering season ranges from March to May with the average flowering season in Louisiana being mid-April. This species requires full sun to light shade to grow ideally.

