

# Crocanthemum arenicola

Synonym: *Helianthemum arenicola*  
coastal sand frostweed

## Cistaceae



Credit: Gabriel Campbell, UF/IFAS

Coastal sand frostweed is found on beach dunes, scrub, and sandhills. It is endemic to the Florida Panhandle, Mississippi, and Alabama coastal counties. After Hurricane Katrina, coastal sand frostweed became the plant

with highest frequency on stable dunes on Horn Island, Mississippi (Lucas and Carter 2013).

## General Description

Coastal sand frostweed is an herbaceous, perennial ground-cover species. Leaves are alternate and simple, and have pubescence that conceals the leaf surface. Inflorescences are terminal umbellate clusters that occur during spring. Flowers have radial symmetry and are 10 to 20 mm wide with 5 bright yellow petals. Fruits are pubescent two-valved capsules.

## Propagation

Apical stem cuttings (6–8 cm) collected in early April from Santa Rosa Island rooted readily under intermittent mist within two weeks in a climate-controlled greenhouse. Rooted cuttings formed complete rootballs in 72-cell flats in less than 7 weeks.



Credit: Gabriel Campbell, UF/IFAS

Mature plants may be divided and potted in a coarse potting mix, but survival with this method has only been 50%. Larger divisions have survived in container production with more success than smaller divisions.

Seed germination information is presently not available for coastal sand frostweed, although the authors found non-scarified seeds don't imbibe water (i.e., seeds are physically dormant). Other *Helianthemum* species have been

reported to have physical dormancy as well (Pérez-García and González- Benito 2006; Thanos 1992).

## Outplanting

No published outplanting information is presently available for coastal sand frostweed.

## Literature Cited

- Lucas, K.L., and G.A. Carter. 2013. "Change in distribution and composition of vegetated habitats on Horn Island, Mississippi, northern Gulf of Mexico, in the initial five years following Hurricane Katrina." *Geomorphology*. 199:129–137.
- Pérez-García, F., and M.E. González-Benito. 2006. "Seed germination of five *Helianthemum* species: Effect of temperature and presowing treatments." *Journal of Arid Environments*. 65:688–693.
- Thanos, C.A., K. Georghiou, C. Kadis, and C. Pantazi. 1992. "Cistaceae: a plant family with hard seeds." *Israel Journal of Botany*. 41(4–6):251–263.

1. This document is SGEB-75-7, one of a series of the Florida Sea Grant College Program, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date June 2018. Visit the EDIS website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.  
2. Debbie Miller, professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center; Mack Thetford, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center; Christina Verlinde, UF/IFAS Extension Florida Sea Grant Agent, Santa Rosa County; Gabriel Campbell, graduate research assistant, UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center; and Ashlynn Smith, graduate research assistant, UF/IFAS West Florida Research and Education Center, Milton, FL 32583.