



Wiregrass

Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*)

Instant ID

- A yellow-green bunchgrass growing in clumps which reach three feet high when flowering
- Unlike similar grasses, wiregrass has hair-like structures at the base of each leaf blade

Native Niches

- Prefers well-drained soils typical of upland pine forests, sandhills and dry flatwoods
- Grows best under an open canopy (the leafy portions of trees)
- Key species to the threatened longleaf pine and sandhill ecosystems



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Plant Particulars

- Common food for gopher tortoises and northern bobwhite quail
- Adapted to fire to complete its life cycle
- Provides a natural fuel source for low intensity fires that benefit its habitat
- One of the first plants to sprout after fire

Population Protection

- Prescribed burns, done by the Florida Park Service, are a way to apply natural processes to ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk
- Conserving wiregrass protects the habitats in which it grows

