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# Coastal mock vervain

(*Glandularia maritima*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Also known as Beach verbena, Coastal mock vervain is a short-lived perennial wildflower endemic primarily to Florida's east coast. It is a state-listed endangered species. It blooms year-round, although the most prolific flowering occurs in spring and summer. Coastal mock vervain flowers are a good nectar source for a variety of butterflies and moths, including Gulf fritillaries, hawkmoths and Long-tailed skippers. They are also attractive to miner bees and long-tongued bees such as bumble and orchid bees.

Coastal mock vervain's deep pink to lavender flowers are five-lobed and born in flat-topped terminal clusters. Leaves are dark green, glossy, and ovate to rhombic with deeply toothed or lobed margins. They are oppositely arranged. Stems have tiny hairs and are angled and generally prostrate. They will drop roots as they spread. Seeds are born in an inconspicuous nutlet.



Photo by Andrea England

**Family:** Verbenaceae (Verbena or vervain family)

**Native range:** East coast of peninsula from St. Johns to Monroe counties, Collier, Hendry and Levy counties

To see where natural populations of Coastal mock vervain have been vouchered, visit [www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Hardiness:** Zones 8B–11

**Lifespan:** Perennial

**Soil:** Dry, well-drained calcareous, loamy, clay or sandy soils

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Growth habit:** 8–12" tall, 2'+ spread

**Propagation:** Cuttings, division, seed

**Garden tips:** Use Coastal mock vervain as a low groundcover in a sunny bed or woodland edge, or in a container or above-ground planter. It is particularly striking when used in masses. When planting, allow enough space for the plants to spread. Try Coastal mock vervain in dry, low-nutrient soils where other plants have trouble growing; do not over-irrigate. The plant is highly adaptable and is both salt and drought tolerant.

**Caution:** There are many non-native verbenas available. Be sure to ask your nursery or supplier for native species. Verbena species may hybridize, so it is important to plant the species found naturally in your area to help preserve the distinct genetic identities and ecological roles of these plants.

Coastal mock vervain is available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit [www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a nursery in your area.

