Shortleaf rosegentian is a herbaceous annual wildflower that occurs in moist to wet pine flatwoods, coastal swales and wet prairies throughout Florida. Its white, starlike flowers typically bloom in spring through fall, but may bloom in winter if temperatures are unseasonably warm. They primarily attract butterflies.

Individual flowers have five white petals with a greenish-yellow base. Calyces are five-lobed. Each flower has five bright yellow stamens surrounding a greenish-yellow pistil. Flowers are borne on branched stems. Leaves are short (<1” long), narrowly linear (1/8” wide) and sessile. They are oppositely arranged and may be appressed as they ascend the stem. Leaf surface is glabrous. Fruits are small capsules containing many tiny seeds.

The genus *Sabatia* is most likely a reference to Liberato Sabbati, an Italian botanist. The species epithet *brevifolia* is from the Latin *brevi*, or short, and *folium*, or leaf, referring to the plant's short leaves.

**Family:** Gentianaceae (Gentian family)

**Native range:** Nearly throughout

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

**Hardiness:** Zones 7–10

**Soil:** Moist to moderately dry, sandy soils

**Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

**Growth habit:** 1–2’+ tall

**Propagation:** Seed

**Garden tips:** Shortleaf rosegentian is not commercially grown. Look for it in its natural habitat.