

Peelbark St. John's wort

(*Hypericum fasciculatum*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms.

Also known as Sandweed, Peelbark St. John's wort is an evergreen shrub found in wet pinelands and savannas, and along the margins of swamps, freshwater marshes and ponds. It typically blooms spring through fall, but may bloom year-round. The flowers are attractive to a variety of bees, including polyester, yellow-face, large carpenter, bumble, leafcutter, resin and sweat. The plant provides food and cover for birds and other small wildlife.



Photo by Bob Peterson (CC BY 2.0)

Flowers are bright yellow, sessile and five-petaled with many conspicuous yellow-orange stamens. They may be solitary or born in clusters. Flowers are subtended by five linear sepals. Leaves are simple, sessile and needle-like with entire or revolute margins. They are oppositely arranged. Axillary fascicles of leaves are often present and may help distinguish the plant from other *Hypericum* species. Stems are multibranched with reddish bark that flakes off in papery sheets. In standing water, the plant may produce adventitious prop-like roots (similar to those of the Red mangrove). The fruit is an inconspicuous reddish-brown capsule that is narrowly ovoid.

Some taxonomists place the *Hypericum* genus in the Clusiaceae family, of which they consider Hypericaceae to be a subfamily (Hypericoideae). The species epithet *fasciculatum* is from the Latin *fasciculus*, meaning "little bundle." It refers to the fascicle of leaves.

Family: Hypericaceae (St. John's wort family)

Native range: Nearly throughout

To see where natural populations of Peelbark St. John's wort have been vouchered, visit www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu.

Lifespan: Perennial

Soil: Moist to wet, seasonally inundated sandy soils

Exposure: Full sun

Growth habit: 2–5+’ tall, usually as broad as tall

Propagation: Seed

Florida regions of landscape suitability: North, Central, South

Garden tips: Peelbark St. John's wort is suitable for naturalistic plantings and wet gardens. It does not tolerate drought conditions.

Peelbark St. John's wort is occasionally available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org to find a nursery in your area.

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