



Common Name: MICHIGAN LILY

Scientific Name: *Lilium michiganense* Farwell

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Lilium canadense* ssp. *michiganense* (Farwell) B. Boivin & Cody, *Lilium canadense* var. *umbelliferum* (Farwell) B. Boivin

Family: Liliaceae (lily)

Rarity Ranks: G5/S1

State Legal Status: Rare

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: FACW

Description: Perennial **herb** with a waxy **stem** up to 6 feet (1.9 meters) tall. **Leaves** up to 6 inches (4.6 - 15.3 cm) long and 1 inch (0.6 - 2.3 cm) wide, lance-shaped with roughened veins and margins, in 4 - 12 whorls with 3 - 13 leaves per whorl. **Flowers** 1 - 11 per plant, nodding at the tips of long stalks at the top of the stem. **Tepals** 6 (3 petals + 3 sepals), up to 3½ inches (9 cm) long, curved strongly backwards, orange and yellow with maroon spots near the base. **Stamens** extend well below the tepals, with dark brown, dangling anthers up to ½ inch (0.6 - 1.3 cm) long. **Fruit** an erect capsule, 1 - 2 inches (2.8 - 5 cm) long.

Similar Species: Turk's-cap lily (*Lilium superbum*) flowers are very similar to Michigan lily's except the anthers are more than ½ inch (1.4–2.6 cm) long. Turk's cap leaves are smooth or only slightly rough on the edges and veins.

Related Rare Species: Canada lily (*Lilium canadense* ssp. *editorum*, Special Concern) has whorled leaves with rough veins and edges, like Michigan lily. But its flowers are bell-shaped, with the tepals only slightly curved backwards, and the stamens barely extend beyond the tepals. Canada lily occurs in sunny gaps in rich, limestone woods in Dade and Floyd Counties.

Habitat: Coosa Valley prairies and flatwoods with wet, calcium-rich soils.

Life History: Michigan lily is pollinated primarily by swallowtail butterflies.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (mid-June–July).

Range: Georgia, north to New York and Ontario, and west to Mississippi and South Dakota.

Threats: Logging and other mechanized clearing of habitat. Badly timed mowing and herbicide applications in roadside rights-of-way. Overbrowsing by deer.

Georgia Conservation Status: Two populations are known; both occur on roadside rights-of-way on conservation lands.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid logging and mechanical clearing. Use hand-clearing or carefully timed mowing, not herbicides, to maintain rights-of-way. Reduce size of Georgia's deer population.

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Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, Sept. 2007: original account

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Lilium michiganense

