The Bearded Grass Pink grows throughout the pine savannas along the Southeast coastal plain from North Carolina to Florida and west to Louisiana. Across its range, this orchid faces a variety of threats from loss of habitat by development and agriculture, to wild hogs that destroy entire populations as they root out the tasty corms.

The flowers of Grass Pinks differ from most orchids in that the lip is at the top of the flower, not at the bottom. This hinged lip has a crest of yellow bristles which attract bees. The weight of a bee that lands on the bristles bends the lip forward, pushing the bee onto the stigma. Any pollen the bee is carrying on its back is left behind to pollinate the flower. The bee struggles to escape and new pollen is transferred to the bee to be carried off to the next flower it visits.

To learn more about the Bearded Grass Pink, scan the QR code with your phone or visit the species page on Go Orchids at goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org.
This is what the paper Bearded Grass Pink will look like when built.