

Species: Wild Limestone Petunia (*Ruellia strepens*)  
Global Rank: G4G5  
State Rank: S2  
Climate Change Vulnerability Index: Moderately Vulnerable  
Confidence: Very High

Habitat:

The range of the wild limestone petunia extends south from Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Nebraska to Florida and Texas (NatureServe 2010). Wild limestone petunia occurs at the northern edge of its range in Pennsylvania and is restricted to mesic forests, bluffs, and roadsides on calcareous soils in the southern third of Pennsylvania (Rhoads and Block 2007).

Current Threats:

Wild limestone petunia is threatened by deforestation, displacement by exotic plant species, and deer herbivory.

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

*Distribution relative to natural topographic or geographic habitat barriers:* Wild limestone petunia is mostly limited to low slope mesic conditions and is unlikely to migrate upslope where microsite conditions are different.

*Predicted macro sensitivity to changes in precipitation, hydrology, or moisture regime:* Considering the range of the mean annual precipitation across the species' range in Pennsylvania, the species has experienced a small precipitation variation in the past 50 years.

*Restrictions to uncommon geological features:* The species is restricted to mesic calcareous forests in Pennsylvania. Such habitat is fairly uncommon in Pennsylvania.

References:

NatureServe. 2010. NatureServe Central Databases. Arlington, Virginia. USA.

Rhoads, A. and T. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd Edition. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press.