Harbinger-of-Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*)

**Pennsylvania Threatened**

State Rank: S2 (imperiled) Global Rank: G5 (secure)

**What it looks like:**
Harbinger of spring is a small (5 to 15 centimeter, or two to six inches tall) herb in the carrot family

- **Leaves** are delicate and compound, divided irregularly into oval leaflets
- **Flowers** are small and white, clustered in two to four small umbels; flowering occurs in March and April

**Where it is found:**
Rich, mixed hardwood forests in lowlands, coastal plains, and mountain valleys from Ontario south to Georgia and New York west to Kansas and Oklahoma.

**Why it is rare:**
Harbinger-of-spring’s lowland forest habitats have been fragmented by logging and invaded by exotic species. Although the species’ worldwide population is considered secure, it is quite rare in Pennsylvania and other states at the edge of its range (see maps).

**North American State/Province Conservation Status**

Map by NatureServe (2007)

**Conservation considerations:**
Loss of bottomland forest to agriculture and unsustainable forestry has severely impacted many of the forests where this plant may have existed. Conserving high-quality bottomland forests where this plant normally grows is key to the protection of this species.

**References**