

Eastern Baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*)

Description

Eastern Baccharis is a slender shrub growing to 6 feet (2 meters) or more in height. The stems are hairless and angled. The leaves are alternately arranged, short-stalked, up to 2.5 inches (6 cm) in length and 1.5 inches (4 cm) in width, usually widest at or above the middle, coarsely toothed or less frequently not toothed on the margin, thickish in texture, and typically somewhat greasy or resinous to the touch. The flowers, appearing in September and October, are whitish and arranged in clusters at the top of the stem. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants, with the female plants being conspicuous when fruiting.

Distribution & Habitat

Eastern Baccharis has primarily a coastal range from southeastern Canada south into Florida and west into Texas. In Pennsylvania, the species occurs at the edge of its range, and it has been documented historically in several southeastern counties. It also sometimes occurs farther inland, particularly along major highways. Eastern Baccharis grows in natural coastal wetlands, but also thrives in certain types of drier disturbed ground, such as clearings, railroad grades, and along highways where there has been considerable road salt application.

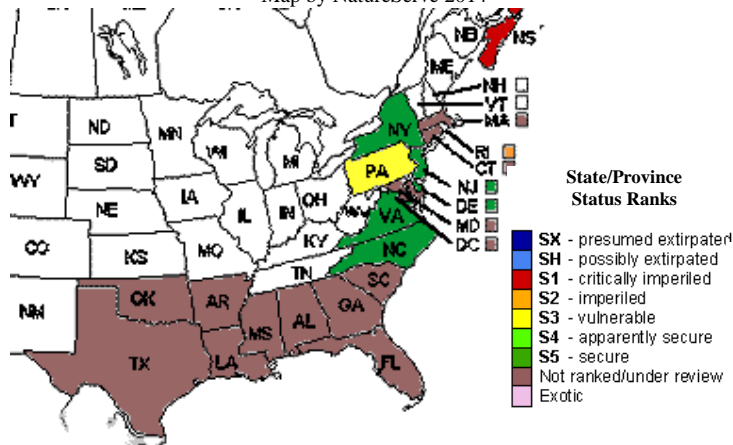


photo source: PNHP

Eastern baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*)
flowers

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014



Conservation Considerations

The conservation of the species in Pennsylvania has concentrated on identifying populations that grow in more natural habitats as compared with those found in disturbed sites, with the natural habitats having threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S3 – Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

References

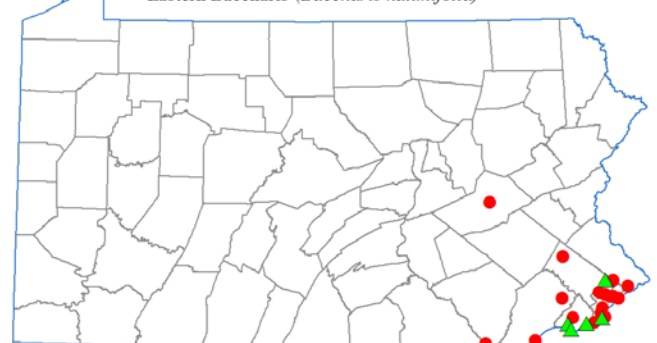
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Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Eastern Baccharis a rarity status of Rare, in order to balance the relatively few populations that have been documented and the small state range with the relative adaptability of the species in being able to colonize disturbed habitats and thus not appearing to be endangered or threatened with extirpation.

Pennsylvania Distribution

Eastern Baccharis (*Baccharis halimifolia*)



▲ records since 1980 ● records pre-1980
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014