

Field Dodder

Cuscuta pentagona

Description

Field Dodder is an annual parasitic herbaceous vine, with the stems usually yellowish or orangish in color. The leaves are reduced to minute scales, which are scattered in an alternate arrangement along the stem. The flowers, appearing from June to September, are white and only 1 to 2 mm in length. The corolla lobes of individual flowers are about 1.0 mm in length, 5-parted and pointed in outline, distinguishing this species from numerous other species in the genus. The fruit is a many-seeded capsule.

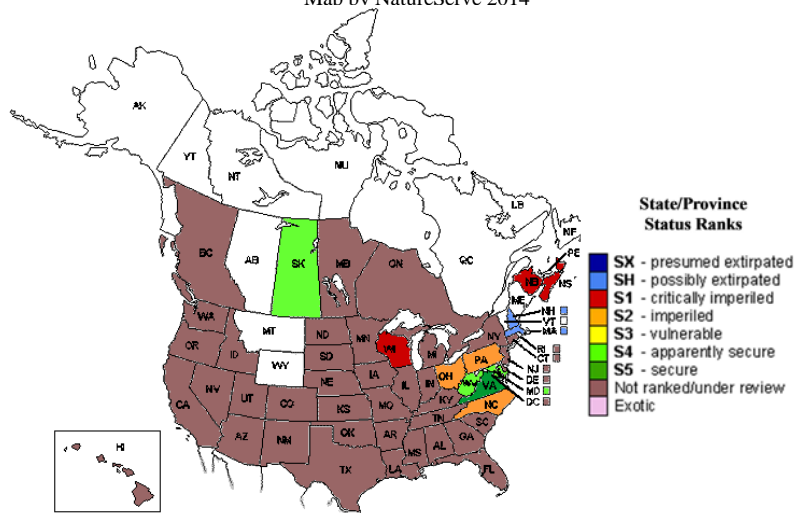


Photo source: Ann Rhoads, Morris Arboretum

One of the dodders (*Cuscuta* sp.) on a host plant.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014



State Status & Conservation

Field Dodder does not have a PA legal rarity status, but the PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Field Dodder a rarity status of Threatened.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

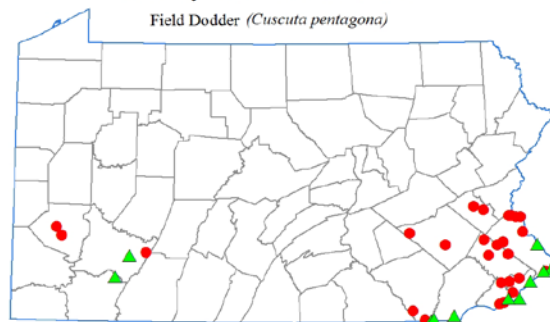
G5 – Globally Secure; S2 – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

Distribution & Habitat

Field Dodder has a range throughout North America. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in numerous southern, especially southeastern, counties. Field Dodder grows in various types of open habitats, including old fields, clearings, thickets, and various sorts of open ground.

Pennsylvania Distribution

Field Dodder (*Cuscuta pentagona*)



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

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2014.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program