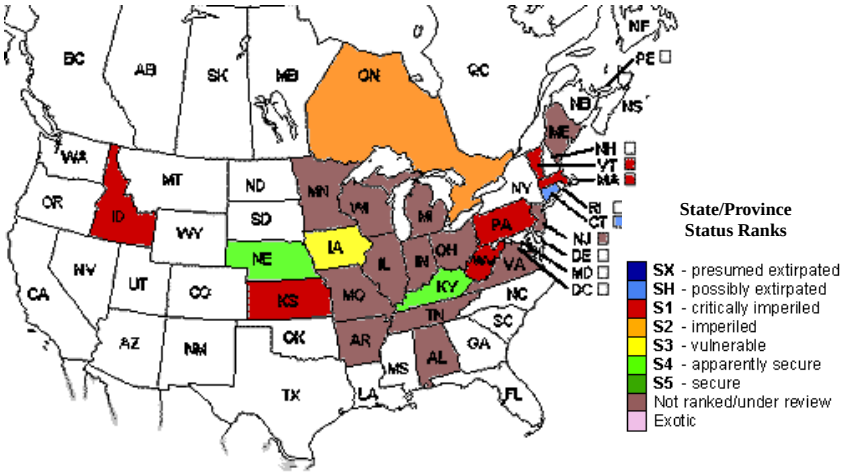
False Loosestrife Seedbox
Ludwigia polycarpa

Description
False loosestrife seedbox is a perennial herb with erect or trailing, four-sided stems that can grow up to 40 inches (1 meter) long. The leaves are alternately arranged, lance-shaped or linear, untoothed on the margins, stalkless, and up to 5 inches (12 cm) long. The flowers, appearing from July to September, occur in the leaf axils. The petals are absent or minute. The most distinctive feature of the plant is the 4-sided capsular fruit, which has 4 sepal lobes at its summit and 2 narrow leaf-like bracts at its base.

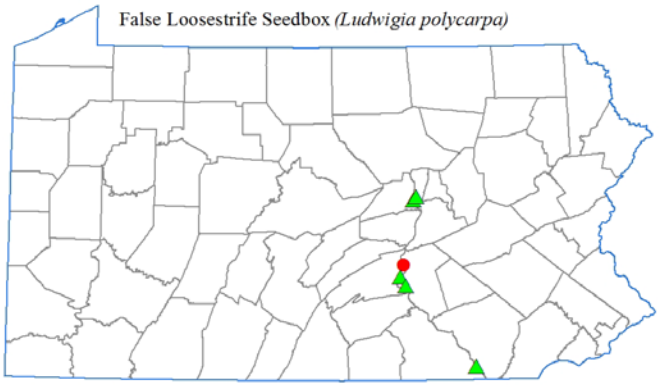
Photo source: Tom Smith (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2014



Distribution & Habitat
The false loosestrife seedbox has a distribution centered in midwestern North America. In Pennsylvania, it appears to be at an eastern border of its range and has been found in a few counties along the Susquehanna River. It grows on shorelines and in wet depressions and marshes.

Current State Status
The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers false loosestrife seedbox to be a species of special concern, based on the very few occurrences that have been recently confirmed, its restricted state range, and its wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered. Only a few populations are currently known from the state.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014

Conservation Considerations
The populations of false loosestrife seedbox currently known from the state are located either in or in close proximity to the Susquehanna River. The viability of the species and its habitat can be enhanced by maintaining the natural seasonal fluctuations in the water level of the river and the natural conditions of its shoreline and islands. Threats to the species include natural succession and invasive species.

NatureServe conservation status ranks
G4 – Apparently globally secure; S1 – Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.