

Common shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)

Pennsylvania Endangered

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G5 (secure)

What it looks like:

Shooting star is a showy perennial with thick, fleshy roots that grows no taller than roughly half a meter. **Flowers** are white, lavender, or lilac and point upwards and backwards. They are organized around the stamens, which form a beak-like cone in the center of the flower, resembling a shooting star. The flower stem is leafless, usually about 8-20 inches tall, and topped with an umbel of 3-15 nodding flowers. Shooting star is a spring flower evident in May and June. **Leaves** are large, oblong and arranged in a basal rosette. They are often marked with red at the base.



Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Where it is found:

Shooting star is found in most of the midwestern and eastern states in a variety of habitats. Throughout its range, the plant occurs in moist and dry meadows, prairies, and woodlands, usually on basic or circumneutral soil. In Pennsylvania, it occurs in Fulton, Franklin, Bedford, and Snyder Counties, primarily on wooded slopes, which are often composed of a shale or limestone base.

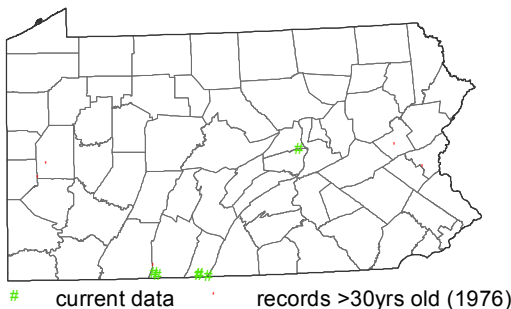
Why it is rare:

Appropriate habitat for the common shooting star is uncommon throughout much of the state, even within the plant's natural range. These habitats are subject to human impact, as many are mowed, bulldozed, and herbicided for right-of-way maintenance. Furthermore, invasions of exotic plant species such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), creates new pressures on native plants for the competition of resources.

Conservation concerns:

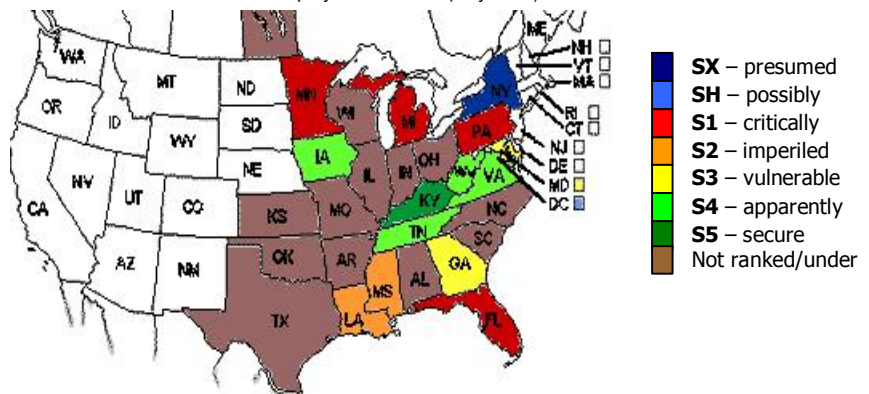
Management of the natural hydrological and disturbance regimes of appropriate habitat is recommended for the future success of shooting star. Management of areas to maintain a prairie habitat would benefit the plant. This includes woody debris removal, natural disturbance regimes, such as fires, and invasive plant control to reduce outside competition for resources.

Pennsylvania Distribution by County



North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (July 2007)



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Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program



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