

Pineland Pimpernel (*Samolus parviflorus*)

Plant Species of Concern

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

Identification

Pineland pimpernel is a small perennial herb, up to 12 inches (3 dm) tall, that has several upright, branching stems. This wetland species is a member of the primrose family. The leaves grow at the base of the plant and along the stem in an alternate arrangement. They are oval in shape, have smooth margins, and taper toward the base to a petiole. The leaves are light green and about 2¾ inches (7 cm) long. The flowers are held in a large, open, spike-like cluster at the top of the stem. *Parviflorus* means “small flowered” and this plant is appropriately named, with flowers only about 1/10 inch (3 mm) wide. Flowers have 5 white, petal-like lobes and bloom from June to October.

Habitat

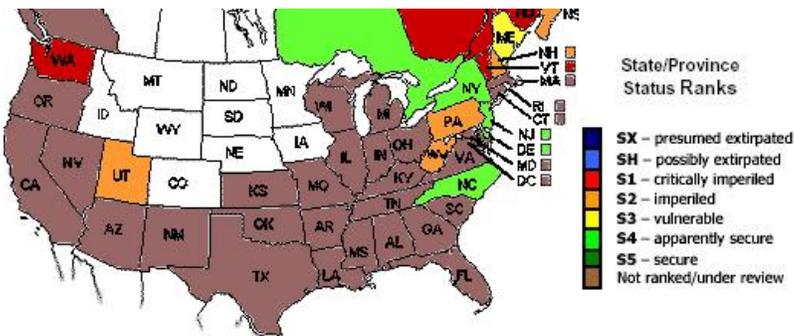
Pineland pimpernel can be found throughout most of the eastern United States. Its range also extends through the Southwest and along the Pacific Coast. In Pennsylvania it grows in seeps and on muddy stream banks, particularly those underlain by diabase.



photo source: PNHP

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Status

The PA Biological Survey considers the pineland pimpernel to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been documented and the wetland habitat. It has been assigned a rarity status of Endangered.

Conservation

Conservation of pineland pimpernel will depend upon the protection of existing populations and maintenance of their wetland habitat. This may include removing invasive plants and creating buffers to help protect populations from the effects of run-off or flooding. Sustaining appropriate water levels will also be important for maintaining high quality habitats.

References

- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 4, 2007).
- Rhoads, A. F. and W. M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
- Rhoads, A. F. and T. A. Block. 2000. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

