

# Queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*)

## Pennsylvania Plant Species of Concern

State Rank: S1S2 (critically imperiled to imperiled) Global Rank: G4G5 (apparently secure to secure)

### What it looks like:

Queen-of-the-prairie is a member of the rose family (Rosaceae) that spreads clonally by the growth of underground stems called rhizomes as well as reproducing sexually. Individual ramets, or members of a clone, grow from one to two meters tall; a single clone may spread over scores of square meters.

**Leaves** are pinnately compound, with the terminal leaflet the largest, up to 20 centimeters wide, divided into five to nine palmate lobes, and coarsely toothed. Five to nine lateral leaflets are smaller versions of the terminal leaflet, with three to five lobes apiece (see drawing on next page).

**Flowers** usually have five deeply pink petals, with a ring of long stamens surrounding a cluster of club-shaped pistils. They grow in large, showy inflorescences up to 20 centimeters wide.



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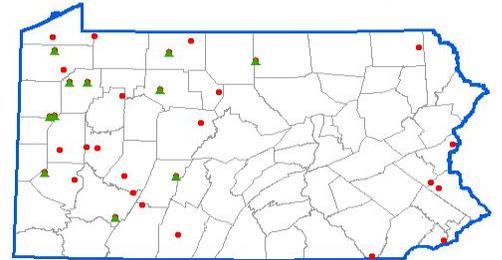
### Where it is found:

Queen-of-the-prairie grows mainly in fens, calcium-rich peat-producing wetlands, but clones may also be found in wet woodlands and grassland seeps. It grows from Newfoundland south in to Georgia, and has been found as far west as Wyoming; but its natural range is probably somewhat smaller.

### Why it is rare:

Queen-of-the-prairie is rare because its preferred habitat, fens, are generally rare. The species also suffers from potential reproductive limitations – some populations produce very little viable seed. This may be because queen-of-the-prairie populations are often composed of only a handful of clones, which reduces their genetic variability.

### Pennsylvania Distribution by County



▲ current data • records > 30 years old (1975)  
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2005

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe



#### State/Province Status Ranks

SX	– presumed extirpated
SH	– possibly extirpated
S1	– critically imperiled
S2	– imperiled
S3	– vulnerable
S4	– apparently secure
S5	– secure
	Not ranked/under review
	exotic

### Conservation considerations:

Queen-of-the-prairie populations will benefit greatly from protection of their wetland habitats, which are often destroyed or fragmented by human development. Forest management practices can also be altered to allow more natural disturbances to create early successional habitat, and existing populations should be protected from collection, which may be a minor concern. Efforts to re-establish queen-of-the-prairie populations in unoccupied habitat should make use of seed or transplant material taken from a wide variety of parent clones to ensure that new populations will have sufficient genetic diversity to produce viable seed.

### References

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