

Harbinger-of-Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*)

Pennsylvania Threatened

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

What it looks like:

Harbinger of spring is a small (5 to 15 centimeter, or two to six inches tall) herb in the carrot family

Leaves are delicate and compound, divided irregularly into oval leaflets

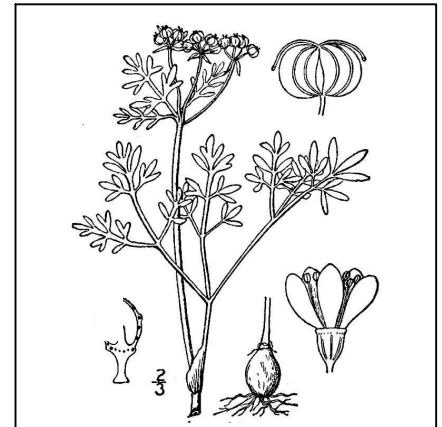
Flowers are small and white, clustered in two to four small umbels; flowering occurs in March and April

Where it is found:

Rich, mixed hardwood forests in lowlands, costal plains, and mountain valleys from Ontario south to Georgia and New York west to Kansas and Oklahoma.

Why it is rare:

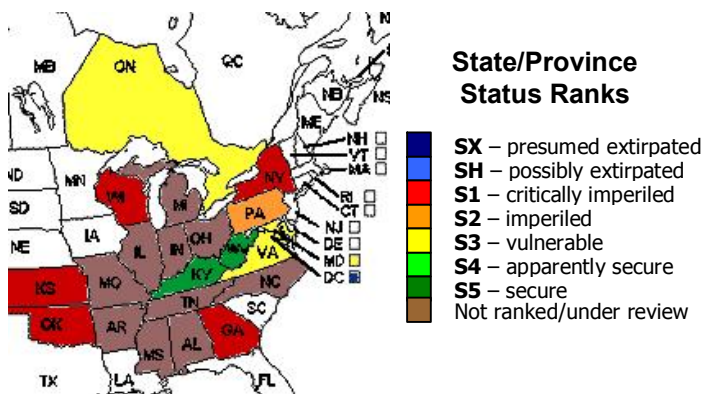
Harbinger-of-spring's lowland forest habitats have been fragmented by logging and invaded by exotic species. Although the species' worldwide population is considered secure, it is quite rare in Pennsylvania and other states at the edge of its range (see maps).



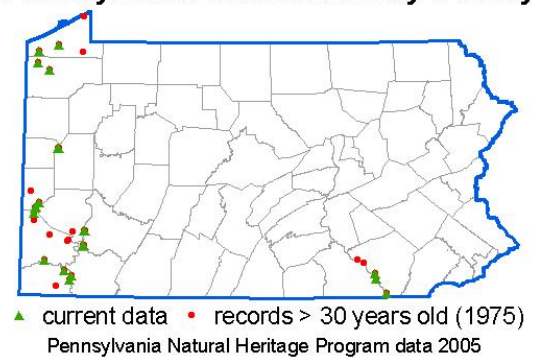
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database - from *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. (Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.) Vol. 3: 109.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Pennsylvania Distribution by County



Conservation considerations:

Loss of bottomland forest to agriculture and unsustainable forestry has severely impacted many of the forests where this plant may have existed. Conserving high-quality bottomland forests where this plant normally grows is key to the protection of this species.

References

- Gleason, Henry A. and Arthur Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. Second ed. New York: The New York Botanical Garden. 385.
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- NatureServe. 2004. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2005. The PLANTS Database [web application]. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Available at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

