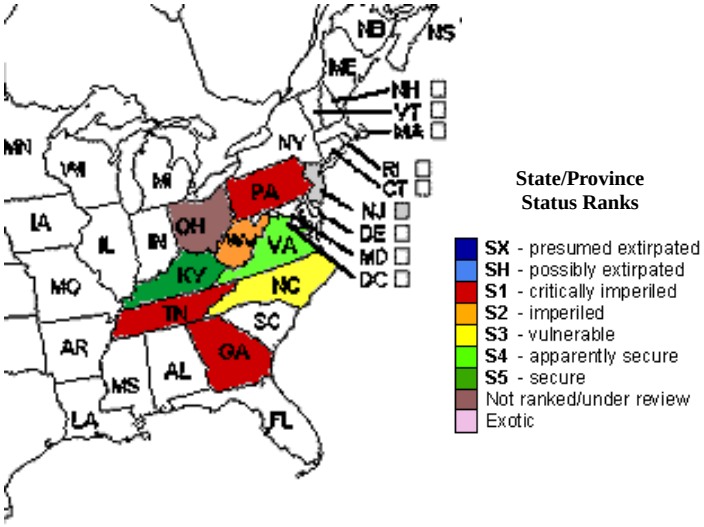
Vasey's Eupatorium
Eupatorium godfreyanum

Description
Vasey's Eupatorium is a perennial herb with hairy stems that may grow from 2 to 5 feet (6-15 dm) high. The leaves are oppositely arranged, generally lance-shaped, 3 to 4½ inches (7-11 cm) long, toothed on the margin, pointed at the tip, and attach directly to the stem without a stalk. The flowers, appearing from August to October, are grouped into small flower heads and are arranged in branched, open clusters at the top of stems.

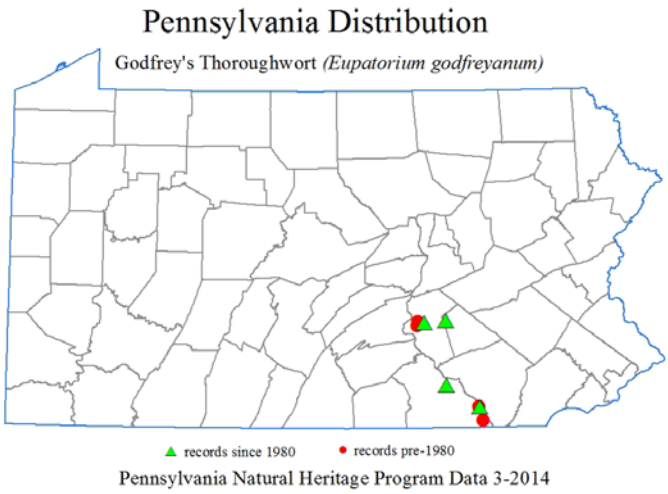
Photo source: John Kunsman, PNHP

Distribution & Habitat
Vasey's eupatorium has a range mostly in the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania and Ohio south into Georgia. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in a few eastern counties, particularly those bordering the Susquehanna River. It grows on dry slopes, woodland borders, and clearings.

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2014



Current State Status
The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Vasey's eupatorium to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed. It does not have a PA legal rarity status, but has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Undetermined by PABS. Only a few occurrences have been documented in the state.



Conservation Considerations
Populations of Vasey's eupatorium have threats from natural succession, invasive species, and the indiscriminate application of herbicide. Given the preference of the species for open habitats, active management - fire, mowing, or invasive species removal - may be required in order to create the proper successional stage and ecological requirements for the species to thrive.

NatureServe conservation status ranks
G4 – Apparently secure globally; **S1S2** – 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.