

# Large-flowered marshallia (*Marshallia grandiflora*)

*Pennsylvania Endangered*

**State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled) Global Rank: G2 (imperiled)**

## What it looks like:

Large-flowered marshallia is a 20 to 90 centimeter perennial herb growing singly or in clusters from a low caudex, or woody base.

**Leaves** are narrowly oblong and tapering, with three parallel veins. Near the bottom of the stem each leaf has a short petiole, but farther up they are attached directly to the main stem.

**Flowers** are small, white or pale purple, and tubular, clustered in disc-shaped heads at the apex of each main stem.



Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

## Where it is found:

Large-flowered marshallia grows in wet forests or meadows and on stream banks throughout central Appalachia – from Pennsylvania south to Tennessee.

Historically, it also grew in North Carolina, but it seems to have been extirpated from that state; it is expected to occur in Maryland, but no populations have been documented. It tolerates partial shade, but flowers best in direct sunlight, and is most commonly found in habitat that has been scoured by flooding.

## Why it is rare:

Large-flowered marshallia is known to occur in only 11 watersheds within its range, and many of these watershed-wide occurrences are really collections of several very small, widely scattered populations. A few watersheds in West Virginia have populations totaling in the thousands, but these are threatened by flood control projects.

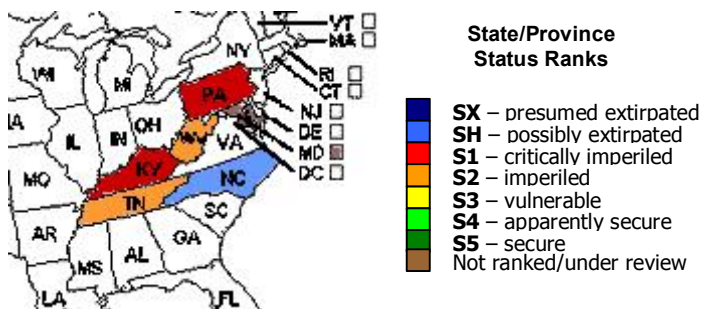
## Pennsylvania Distribution by County



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

## North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program



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## 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. 543.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: August 13, 2007).
- 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>.