

Leaf-cup (*Smallanthus uvedalius* (*Polymnia uvedalia*))

Plant Species of Concern

State Rank: SNR (not yet assessed), **Global Rank: G4G5** (apparently secure/secure)

Identification

Leaf-cup is a coarse perennial herb that can reach up to 6½ feet (2 meters) in height. A member of the aster family, this species produces flower heads that look similar to small sunflowers. The leaves are quite large, up to 16 inches (4 dm), and are rough to the touch. The deeply lobed and coarsely toothed leaves have been said to resemble a bear's paw in outline. Leaves are arranged in opposite pairs along the stem. The flower heads are composed of a brownish-yellow center surrounded by 7-13 bright yellow rays. The 2 inch (5 cm) flower heads are produced in leafy, branching clusters at the top of the stems and bloom from July to September.

Habitat

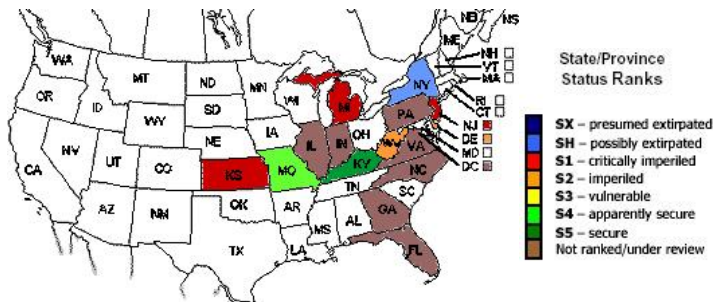
Leaf-cup occurs from New York south to Florida and west as far as Kansas. In Pennsylvania, it grows in ravines, moist thickets, and along the banks of streams or rivers.



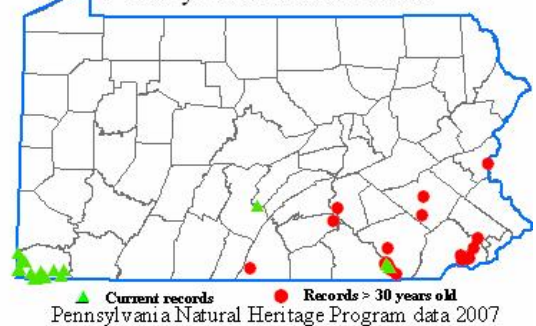
Photo Source: Rocky Gleason (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Pennsylvania Distribution



Status

The PA Biological Survey considers the leaf-cup to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been confirmed and the localized distribution. It has been assigned a rarity status of Threatened.

Conservation

Protection of leaf-cup will require maintenance of known populations and preservation of stream and riverbank habitat. This may include sustaining appropriate hydrology, removal of invasive plants, and establishment of buffers that can moderate the effects of scouring events and run-off. Management of the known sites requires long term monitoring of populations.

References

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