

# Wild Senna

## *Senna marilandica*

### Description

Wild Senna is an erect, bushy perennial herb that can grow up to 6 ½ feet (2 meters) tall. The leaves are alternate, have dome-shaped gland near the base of the leaf stalk, and are divided into 4 to 8 pairs of oblong to elliptic leaflets. The flowers are yellow, appear in July, and are up to 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide, with five yellow petals and 10 dark-red stamens. The fruit is a flattened pod marked with distinct segments.



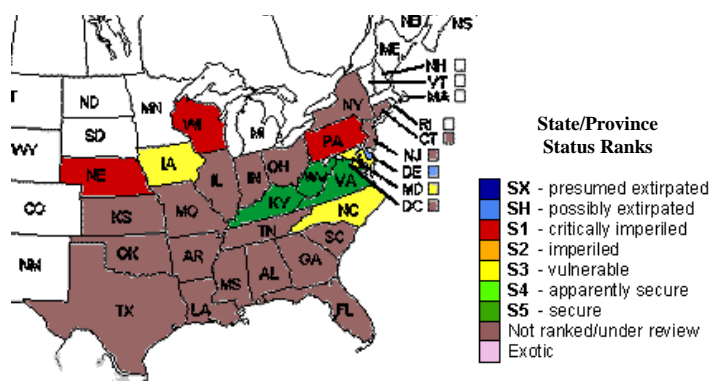
Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

### Distribution & Habitat

Wild Senna has a distribution from New York west into Nebraska and south into Florida and Texas. In Pennsylvania, the occurrences are well distributed in the state. It grows in a variety of habitats, including clearings, woods borders, roadbanks, open slopes, and in thickets.

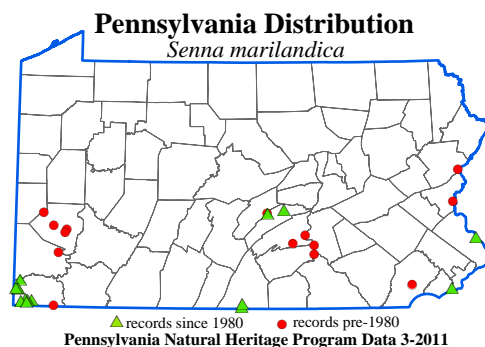
### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 210



### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey considers the Wild Senna to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been documented. It has been assigned a rarity status of Rare.



### Conservation Considerations

Wild Senna will benefit from protection of its habitat and of known populations. Removal of overgrowth and invasive species with the integration of fire regimes when appropriate will help to preserve the integrity of the sites.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G5** – Globally Secure; **S3** – Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2011.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

