Bugleweed
Lycopus rubellus

Description

Bugleweed is a perennial herb that may grow to 3 feet (1 meter) in height. The stem may be hairy or hairless, and when broken lacks the mint-like aroma that is characteristic of most members of the mint family. The leaves are oppositely arranged, lance-shaped to elliptic, from 2 to 4 inches (5 -10 cm) in length and ½ to 1 inch (1-3 cm) in width, stalked at the base, pointed at the tip, and variably toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from July to September, are arranged in dense clusters above the base of the leaf stalk. The sepal lobes in this species are relatively long and pointed at the tip.

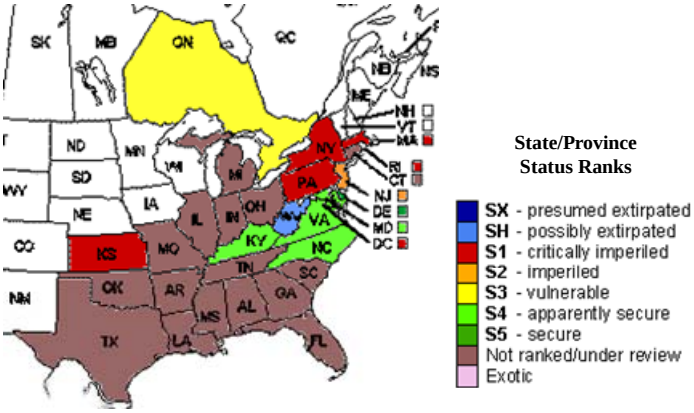
Photo source: PNHP

Distribution & Habitat

Bugleweed has a range from southern New England to Quebec and south into Florida and Texas. In Pennsylvania, the species has been documented historically in several eastern counties, but particularly along the lower Delaware River. Bugleweed grows in intertidal marshes, mudflats, shorelines, and ditches.

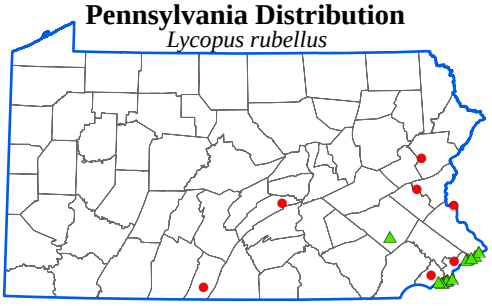
State Status & Conservation

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2010



The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Bugleweed a rarity status of Endangered, based on the relatively few populations that have been documented and the limited state range. The populations have threats from exotics species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

Pennsylvania Distribution
Lycopus rubellus



▲ records since 1980 ● records pre-1980
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2011

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 — Globally Secure; **S1** — Critically imperiled 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. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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