

# Rock skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*)

## Pennsylvania Plant Species of Concern

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled) Global Rank: G3G4 (vulnerable)

### What it looks like:

Rock skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*) is a small perennial herb with a central stem two to five decimeters (about six to 18 inches) tall. It is a member of the mint family, the Lamiaceae.

**Leaves** are two to four centimeters (one to two inches) across and oval to egg-shaped with a few rounded teeth and long pedicels (leaf-stems).

**Flowers** are 12 to 20 millimeters (one-half to one inch), white to blue, and arranged in a raceme or spike. Flowering occurs in July and August.

### Where it is found:

Rock skullcap grows in woods, hillsides, and moist cliffs in mountainous regions from Pennsylvania south to Georgia and Alabama and from New Jersey west to Indiana and Arkansas (see map). In some states the plant is common enough that it is not monitored, but it is rare through most of its range.

### Why it is rare:

Rock skullcap is most threatened by the loss of forest canopy, which exposes its moist forest-floor habitat to the drying effects of direct sunlight; and the invasion of exotic competitor species such as Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

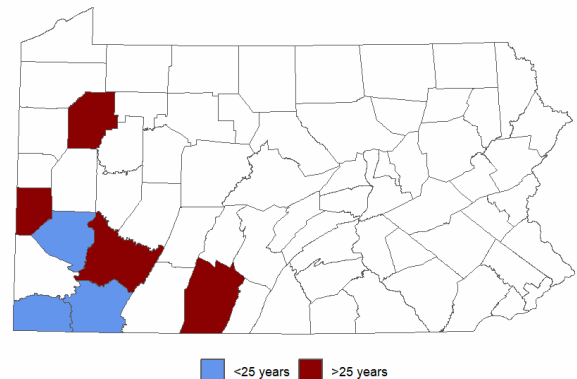
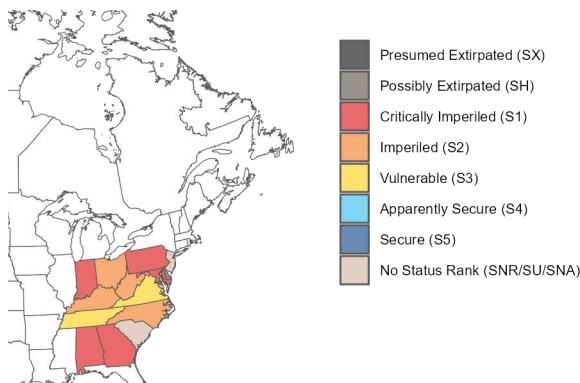


USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database - from *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. (Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.) Vol. 3: 109

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### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



### Conservation considerations:

Rock skullcap populations require protected space in woods without large canopy gaps and free from burning, grazing, or human disturbance hazards. Protected populations should have enough space to expand. Invasive plant species that compete with rock skullcap should be controlled or removed altogether, and the long-term viability of rock skullcap populations should be monitored.

### References

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