

# Scarlet Ammannia

## *Ammannia coccinea*

### Description

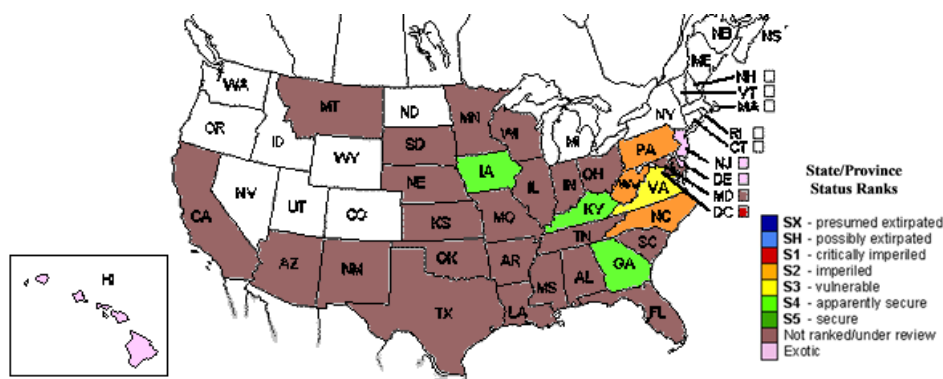
Scarlet ammannia is an erect or spreading, sometimes branched, annual herb with stems to 2 feet high. The leaves are opposite, stalkless, lance-shaped or linear, to 2½ inches long, and pointed at the tip. The flowers, appearing from July to September, occur in small clusters that are subtended by the upper leaves. The individual flowers are small and inconspicuous, and have 4 deep-pink petals. The fruit is a many-seeded capsule.



Photo source: R. Harrison Wiegand

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014



### Distribution & Habitat

Scarlet ammannia has a wide range in North America. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically mostly in the southeastern counties, particularly along the lower Susquehanna River. Scarlet ammannia grows in various damp to wet habitats, especially on the shorelines of rivers, streams, and ponds, and may also be found in human-created disturbances that simulate natural habitats.

### Current State Status

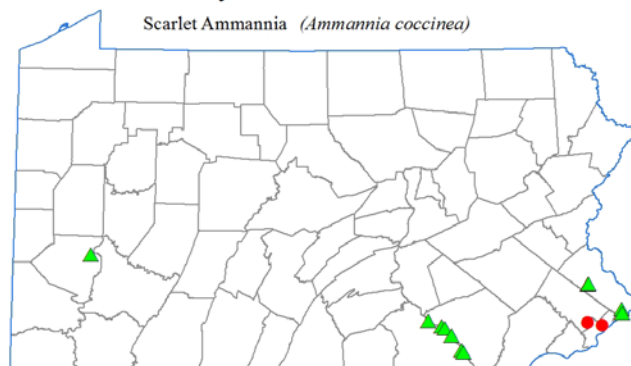
The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers scarlet ammannia to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed. It has a PA legal rarity status of Endangered and has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Threatened by PABS. Fewer than 10 populations, mostly along the lower Susquehanna River, are currently known from the state.

### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of scarlet ammannia and its habitat depends on maintaining the natural hydrology and natural condition of the shoreline and islands of the Susquehanna River. This species appears well-adapted to the seasonal fluctuations in water levels, especially the lower water levels of summer and fall when the plant is flowering and fruiting. Invasive species represent a threat to scarlet ammannia and its shoreline habitat.

### Pennsylvania Distribution

Scarlet Ammannia (*Ammannia coccinea*)



▲ records since 1980 ● records pre-1980  
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G5** – Globally secure; **S2** – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.B. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program