Spreading Globeflower (*Trollius laxus*)

Pennsylvania Endangered Plant Species

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure) T3 (vulnerable subspecies)

Identification

Spreading globeflower is a showy plant with palmately cut, lobed leaves, three to five inches wide. Large terminal flowers, up to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, are yellow or cream-colored. The petals are tiny, but the five to seven large sepals are brightly colored. The plant grows from five to 20 inches.

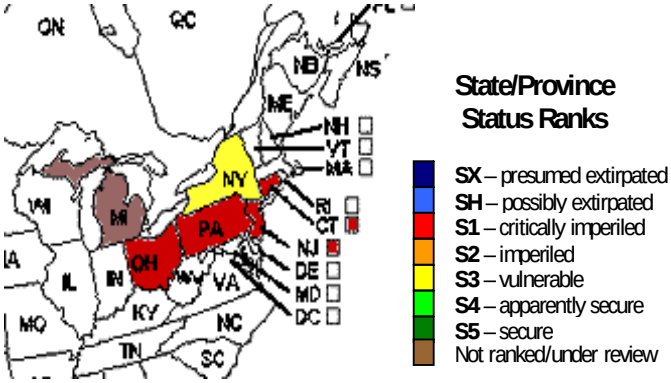
Photo Credit: Paul Wiegman, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Biology-Natural History

Spreading globeflower is a member of the Buttercup Family (Ranunculaceae) with flowers that appear like large buttercups. *Trollius is* a perennial herb that blooms in mid-April. The leaf size increases significantly after blooming. The distinction between eastern and western spreading globeflowers is not clear. The western plants, extending from the Rocky Mountains to the west coast, are thought to be members of a subspecies (ssp. *albiflora)* which have white flowers and are less rare.

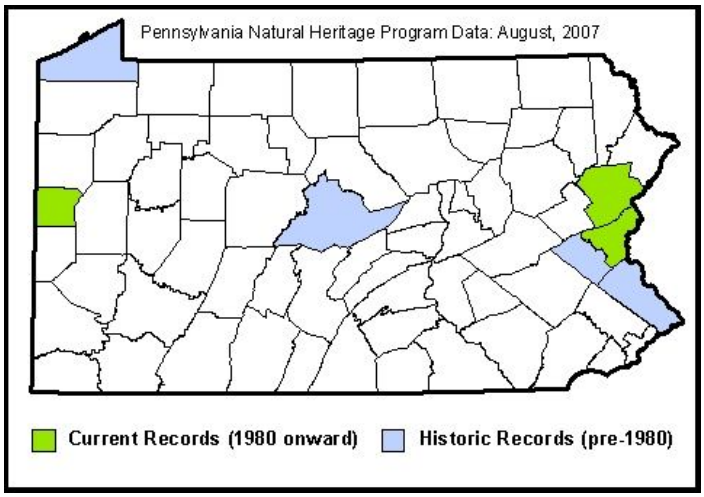
North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (August 2007)



Habitat

Spreading globe flower grows in rich swamps, wet meadows and wet woods from Connecticut and New Jersey west through New York and Pennsylvania to Ohio. In Pennsylvania, its range is limited to the glaciated sections, where wetland habitats are calcareous (alkaline).



Reasons for Being Endangered

Eight of 15 historically documented spreading globeflower sites have been destroyed because the wetlands where they existed were drained or filled for agriculture and housing development.

Management Practices

Spreading globeflower is a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act. One site has been acquired by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy is trying to protect four sites in eastern Pennsylvania. A coal mine was modified to prevent disruption of the hydrology at a western Pennsylvania location. Surveys for this and other wetland plant species of special concern continue to be concentrated in the glaciated sections of the state.

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References:

- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer. (Accessed: August 22, 2007).

Fact Sheet adapted from: Felbaum, Mitchell, et al. Endangered and Threatened Species of Pennsylvania. Harrisburg, PA: Wild Resource Conservation Fund, 1995.