

Rough-leaved Aster

Eurybia radula

Description

Rough-leaved aster is a perennial herb with a stem that can grow up to 3 feet (1 m) tall. The leaves are alternate, lance-shaped, strongly veined, toothed on the margin, rough to the touch, stalkless, and up to 4½ inches (11.5 cm) long. The flowers, appearing from August to October, are arranged in a small cluster of daisy-like flower heads at the top of the stem. Each flower head contains many yellow disk florets that are surrounded by 15-40 purple to white ray florets.

Distribution & Habitat

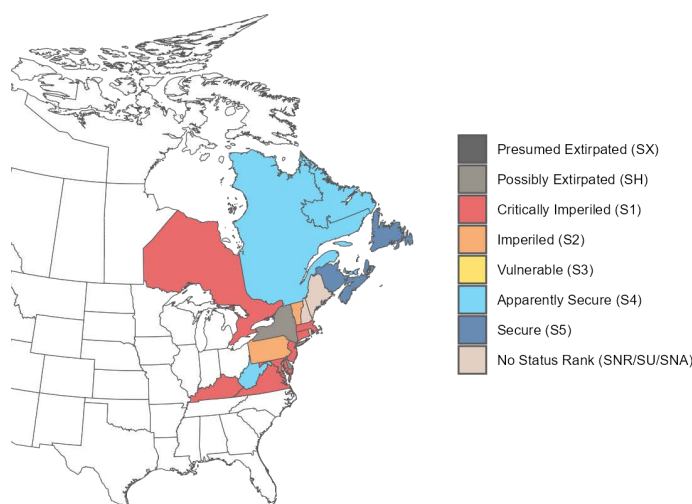
Rough-leaved aster has a range from eastern Canada south into Kentucky and Virginia. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically mostly in the southern counties. It grows in wet woods, swamps, seeps, bogs, and along streams.



Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

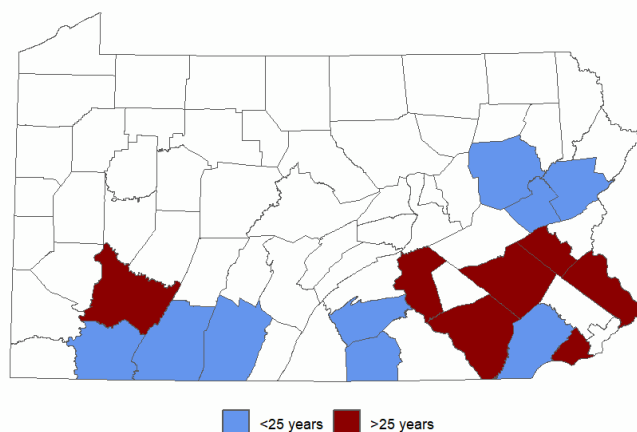
Map by NatureServe 2025



Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers rough-leaved aster to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its wetland habitat. It does not have a PA legal rarity status, but has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Threatened by PABS. About 30 populations are currently known from the state.

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Conservation Considerations

The viability of known populations of rough-leaved aster and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands. Excessive browsing by deer may be a threat in some locations.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

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

References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.