

# Swamp Beggar-ticks

## *Bidens bidentoides*

### Description

Swamp Beggar-ticks is an annual herb that can grow to 3 feet (1 meter) in height, but is often smaller. The leaves are oppositely arranged, lance-shaped, from 1.5 to 4 inches (4 to 10 cm) in length and to 0.75 inch (2 cm) in width, pointed at the tip, stalked at the base, and variably toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from August to October, have a yellow central disk and lack the conspicuous yellow ray flowers found in other species of the genus *Bidens*. The small individual fruits, less than ½ inch (about 1 cm) in length, have 2 slender barbed projections that aid in dispersal.



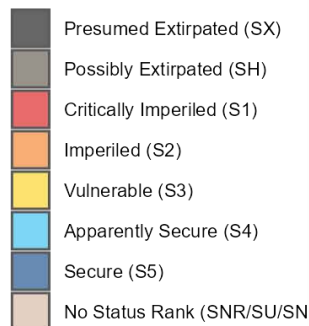
Photo source: Ann Rhoads, Morris Arboretum

### Distribution & Habitat

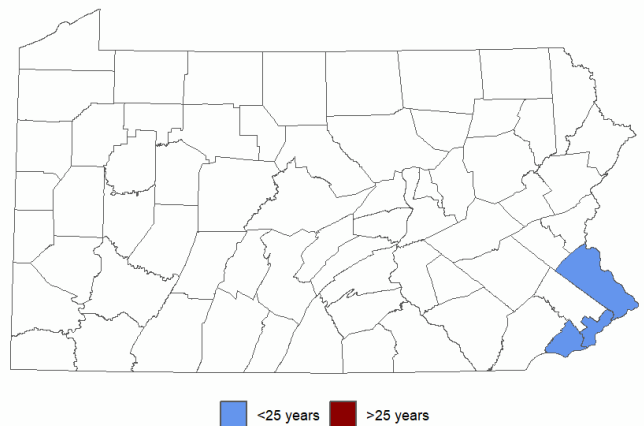
Swamp Beggar-ticks has a relatively narrow range along the coast from New York south into Maryland. In Pennsylvania, it occurs on the edge of its range, and has been documented historically in a few southeastern counties along the Delaware River. Swamp Beggar-ticks grows in intertidal marshes, mudflats, and shores. The plants have a tendency to root on decaying wood, such as pieces of driftwood and old piers and boat docks.

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



### Swamp Beggar-ticks (*Bidens bidentoides*)



### State Status & Conservation

Swamp Beggar-ticks has a rarity status of Endangered, based on the limited global and state range, the relatively few populations that have been confirmed, the small population sizes, and the very specialized habitat. The known populations have threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G3G4** — Vulnerable/Apparently Secure; **S1** — Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2025.
- 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania