

Beggar-ticks *Bidens laevis*

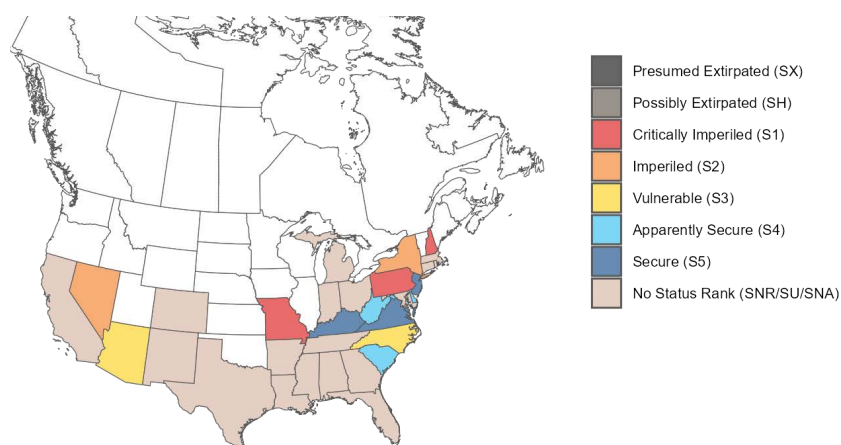
Description

Beggar-ticks is an annual or perennial herb with a hairless stem that may grow to 3 feet (1 meter) in height. The leaves are oppositely arranged, without a obvious stalk at the base, linear to lance-shaped, from 1.5 to 6 inches (4 to 15 cm) in length and to 1.5 inches (4 cm) in width, hairless on both surfaces, and toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from August to October, have conspicuous yellow ray flowers that are 0.5 to 1.25 inches (1.5 to 3 cm) in length. The individual fruits have slender barbed projections that aid in dispersal.



North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



Beggar-ticks (*Bidens laevis*) in bloom on Little Tinicum Island

Distribution & Habitat

Beggar-ticks has a range throughout much of the eastern and southern United States. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in several southeastern and northwestern counties. Beggar-ticks grows in marshes, swamps, and on shorelines.

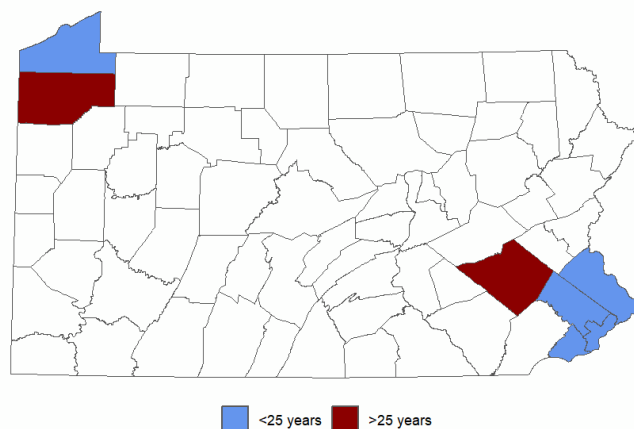
State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Beggar-ticks a rarity status of Undetermined until more field surveys are conducted in order to determine the current state status and conservation requirements of the species. The general habitat of this species has threats from exotic species and draining and filling.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; **S3** – Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

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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: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
- Rhoads, A. F. and T. A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual, Second Edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.