

Swamp Dog-hobble

Eubotrys racemosus

Description

Swamp Dog-hobble is a deciduous shrub or small tree that may grow up to 9 feet (3 m) in height. The leaves are alternately arranged, sharply toothed on the margin, egg-shaped to elliptic, pointed at the tip, usually more-or-less hairy on the veins below, and typically 1 to 3 inches (3-8 cm) in length. The white flowers, appearing in May or June, are grouped in slender, elongate clusters, with all the flowers tending to point to the same side. The individual flowers, about 3/8 inch (7-9 mm) in length, have a tubular or bell shape. The fruit is a globe-shaped, many-seeded capsule.

Distribution & Habitat

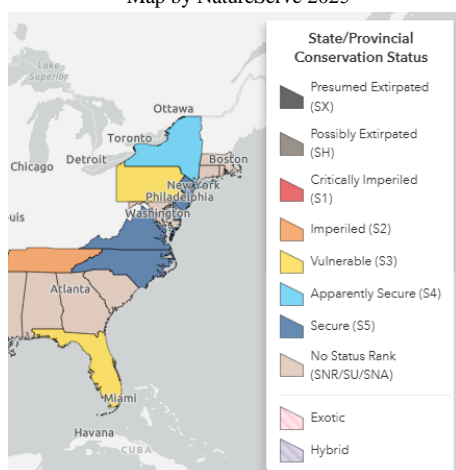
Swamp Dog-hobble has a mostly coastal range from New York west and south into Texas and Florida. In Pennsylvania, it represents a southerly species and has been documented historically in numerous southeastern counties. It grows in wetlands, particularly swamps, wet thickets, and the margins of ponds and streams.



Photo source: PNHP

North American State/Province Conservation Status

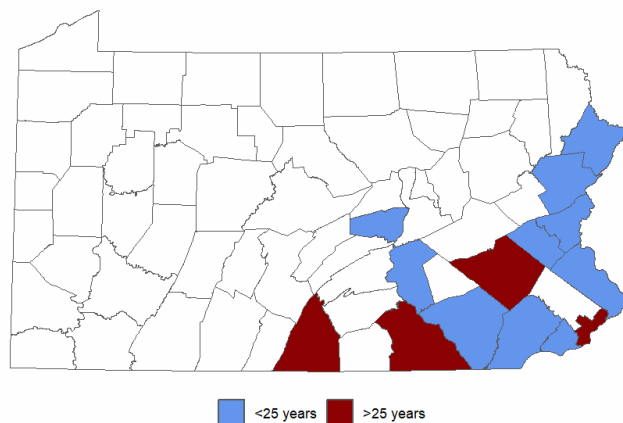
Map by NatureServe 2025



Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey considers Swamp Dog-hobble to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been recently documented and the wetland habitat. It has been assigned a rarity status of Undetermined and a PABS suggested rarity status of Rare. About 30 populations are known from the state.

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Conservation Considerations

The viability of known populations of Swamp Dog-hobble and its habitat may be enhanced by establishing buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally Secure; S3– Vulnerable 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. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.