

Swamp Lousewort *Pedicularis lanceolata*

Description

Swamp lousewort is a perennial herb that may grow from 1 to 3 feet (3-9 dm) tall. The leaves are oppositely arranged on the lower stem and alternately arranged on the upper stem, oblong to lance-shaped, variably lobed or toothed on the margins, and up to 4 inches (10 cm) long. The flowers, appearing in August and September, occur in a terminal cluster. The petals are partially fused into a tube-like shape, yellowish, and about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long. The fruit consists of a many-seeded capsule.



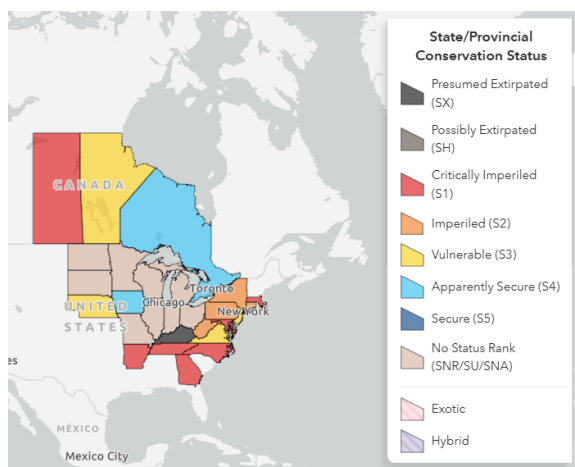
Photo source: USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database

Distribution & Habitat

Swamp lousewort has a range from southern New England west into the Dakotas and south into Arkansas and Georgia. In Pennsylvania, it occurs mostly in the southern and northwestern counties, where it grows in calcareous wetlands, including boggy meadows, marshes, swamps, and fens.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers swamp lousewort to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its specialized wetland habitat. It does not have a PA legal rarity status, but has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Endangered by PABS. About 10 populations of swamp lousewort are currently known in the state.

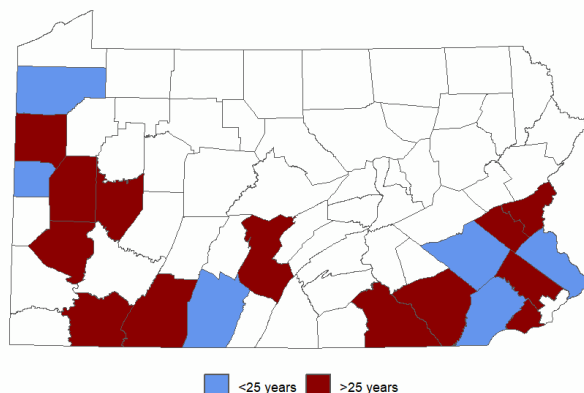
Conservation Considerations

The known occurrences of swamp lousewort and its habitat type will be enhanced by creating buffers around its habitat, removal of invasive species, and protection of wetland hydrology. Excessive deer browsing may be a threat in some locations.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G4 – Globally apparently secure; S2 – Imperiled 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)
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

- USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 1: 20.