

Subulate Arrowhead *Sagittaria subulata*

Description

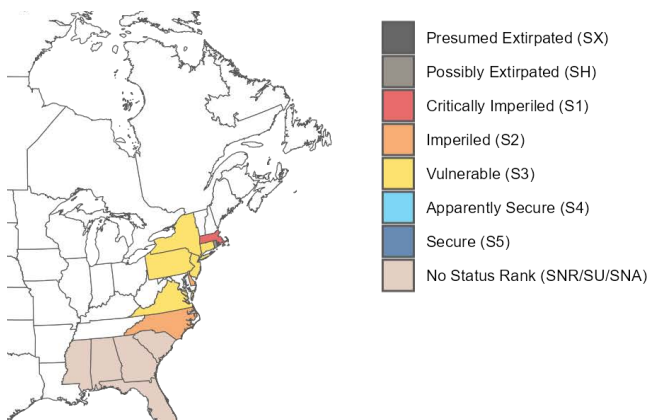
Subulate Arrowhead is a small perennial herb generally only a few inches in height that forms small mats due to its horizontally-spreading stems. The leaves are linear to strap-shaped, up to 3 inches (7.5 cm) in length and 1/8 inch (4 mm) in width, somewhat spongy, and do not have an expanded leaf blade at the tip. The flowers, appearing from June to September, have 3 white petals that are only a few millimeters in length. The individual flowers are grouped in a whorl-like cluster. The sepals of each flower are persistent, and are spreading or bent down beneath the fruiting heads, which consist of a group of flattened, one-seeded fruits that are 1 or 2 mm in length.



Photo source: Andrew Strassman (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Subulate Arrowhead a rarity status of Rare. The species appears to be successful enough in maintaining its populations so as not to be endangered or threatened with extirpation, yet has a very limited range in the state and a very specialized habitat. The populations of Subulate Arrowhead have threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

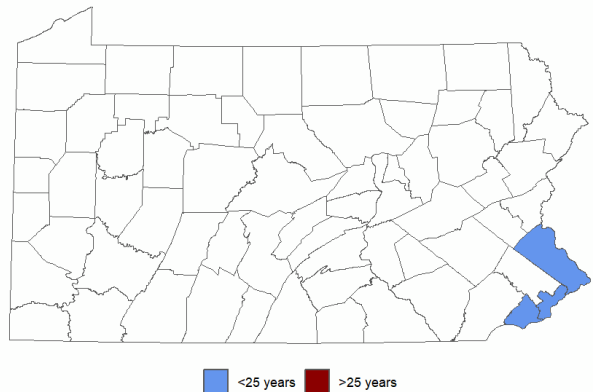
NatureServe conservation status ranks

G4 — Apparently Secure; **S3** — Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

Distribution & Habitat

Subulate Arrowhead has a range from Massachusetts south along the coast into Florida and Alabama. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented recently only in a few southeastern counties along the Delaware River. Subulate Arrowhead grows in intertidal marshes, mudflats, and river shores. The intertidal populations are subjected to daily cycles of exposure and inundation.

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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. 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.



