

# Vasey's Eupatorium

## *Eupatorium godfreyanum*

### Description

Vasey's Eupatorium is a perennial herb with hairy stems that may grow from 2 to 5 feet (6-15 dm) high. The leaves are oppositely arranged, generally lance-shaped, 3 to 4½ inches (7-11 cm) long, toothed on the margin, pointed at the tip, and attach directly to the stem without a stalk. The flowers, appearing from August to October, are grouped into small flower heads and are arranged in branched, open clusters at the top of stems.

### Distribution & Habitat

Vasey's eupatorium has a range mostly in the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania and Ohio south into Georgia. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in a few eastern counties, particularly those bordering the Susquehanna River. It grows on dry slopes, woodland borders, and clearings.

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025

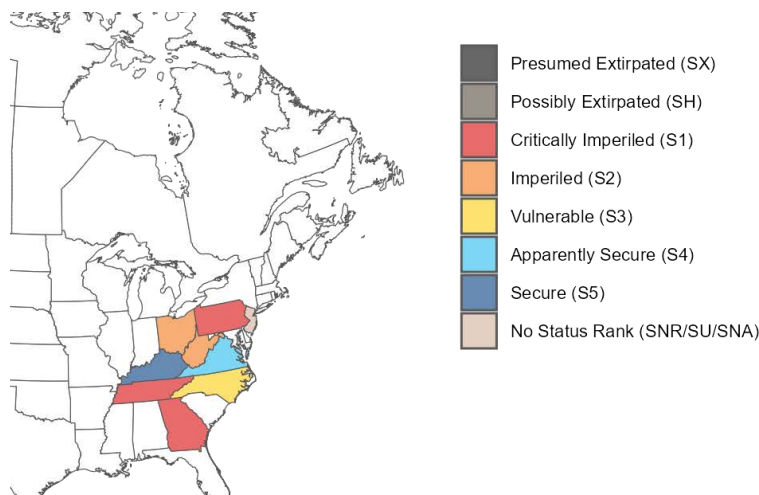


Photo source: John Kunsman, PNHP

### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Vasey's eupatorium to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed. It does not have a PA legal rarity status, but has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Undetermined by PABS. Only a few occurrences have been documented in the state.

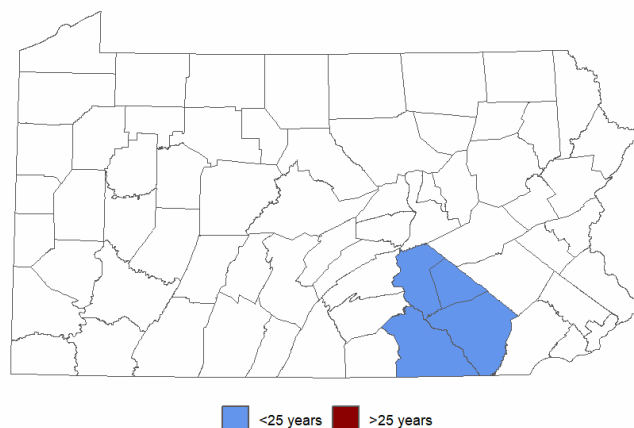
### Conservation Considerations

Populations of Vasey's eupatorium have threats from natural succession, invasive species, and the indiscriminate application of herbicide. Given the preference of the species for open habitats, active management - fire, mowing, or invasive species removal - may be required in order to create the proper successional stage and ecological requirements for the species to thrive.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G4** – Apparently secure globally; **S1S2** – Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania

### Godfrey's Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium godfreyanum*)



### 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.