

WILD-PEA (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*)

Pea Family (Fabaceae)

Pennsylvania Threatened

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G5 (secure)

SIGNIFICANCE

The wild pea has been given a status of Threatened on the Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania list by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, based on the relatively few recent records that have been documented in the state. More field work is needed for this species in order to determine if this status is justified.

DESCRIPTION

The wild-pea is a perennial herb with sprawling stems. The leaves are alternately arranged, divided into four to eight, hairless, entire leaflets with a branching and twining tendril at the tip. The flowers are whitish or yellowish-white and appear in May or June. The fruit is a pea-like pod.

HABITAT

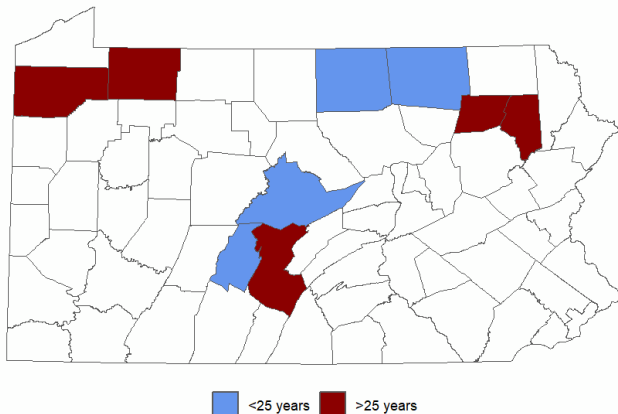
The species grows in woods, thickets, and openings in well-drained, usually calcareous, substrate.

RANGE

The wild pea is widely distributed in the more northern and cooler portions of North America. It occurs in the northern or mountain counties in Pennsylvania.

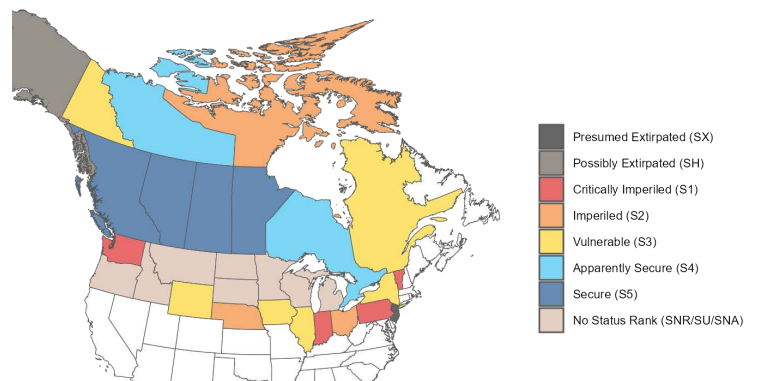


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North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



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. 2000. The plants of Pennsylvania: an illustrated manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr.. 1993. The vascular flora of Pennsylvania: annotated checklist and atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA