

# Scarlet Ammannia

## *Ammannia coccinea*

### Description

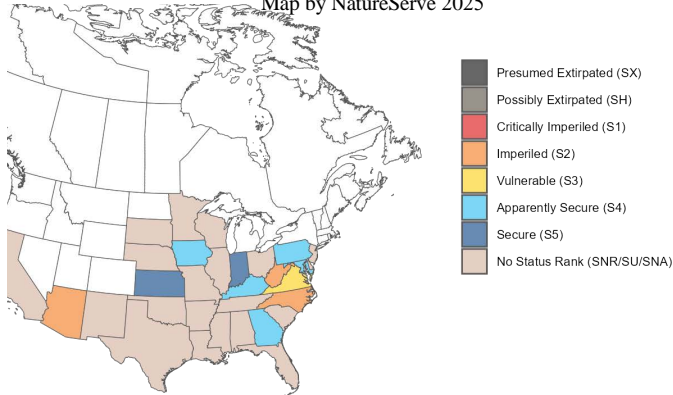
Scarlet ammannia is an erect or spreading, sometimes branched, annual herb with stems to 2 feet high. The leaves are opposite, stalkless, lance-shaped or linear, to 2½ inches long, and pointed at the tip. The flowers, appearing from July to September, occur in small clusters that are subtended by the upper leaves. The individual flowers are small and inconspicuous, and have 4 deep-pink petals. The fruit is a many-seeded capsule.



Photo source: R. Harrison Wiegand

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



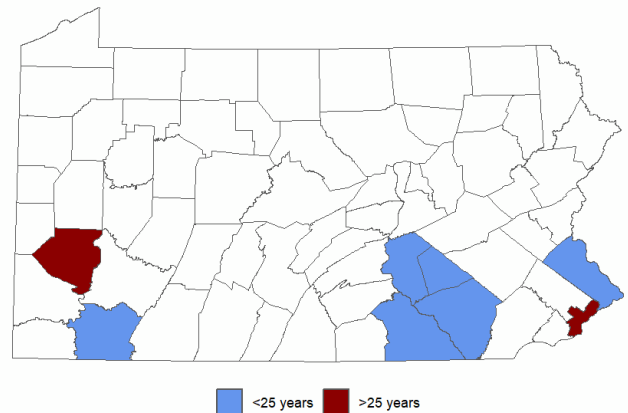
### Distribution & Habitat

Scarlet ammannia has a wide range in North America. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically mostly in the southeastern counties, particularly along the lower Susquehanna River. Scarlet ammannia grows in various damp to wet habitats, especially on the shorelines of rivers, streams, and ponds, and may also be found in human-created disturbances that simulate natural habitats.

### Current State Status

Scarlet ammannia has a PA legal rarity status of Endangered.

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### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of scarlet ammannia and its habitat depends on maintaining the natural hydrology and natural condition of the shoreline and islands of the Susquehanna River. This species appears well-adapted to the seasonal fluctuations in water levels, especially the lower water levels of summer and fall when the plant is flowering and fruiting. Invasive species represent a threat to scarlet ammannia and its shoreline habitat.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S4 – Apparently secure in Pennsylvania

### 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.B. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.