

# Round-leaved Fame-flower *Phemeranthus teretifolius*

## Description

Round-leaved Fame-flower is a perennial herb that grows to 8 inches (2 dm) tall. The leaves are arranged alternately, but are densely clustered and give the stem a tufted appearance. The individual leaves are fleshy, round in cross-section, and up to 2½ inches (6 cm) long. The flowers, appearing from late June into July, are grouped in small clusters at the end of long, slender stalks. The individual flowers have 5 pinkish petals and open for only a few hours in the afternoon. The fruit is a many-seeded capsule.

## Distribution & Habitat

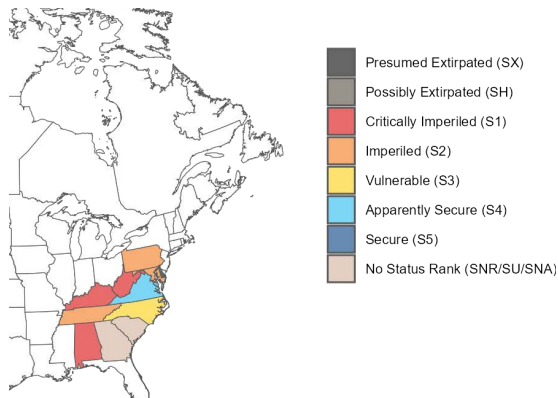
Round-leaved Fame-flower has a range from southern New England west and south into Georgia and Alabama. In Pennsylvania, it represents a southerly species, and has been documented historically in a few southeastern counties, where it grows on bedrock exposures in the serpentine barrens.



Photo source: Charlie Eichelberger (PNHP)

## North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



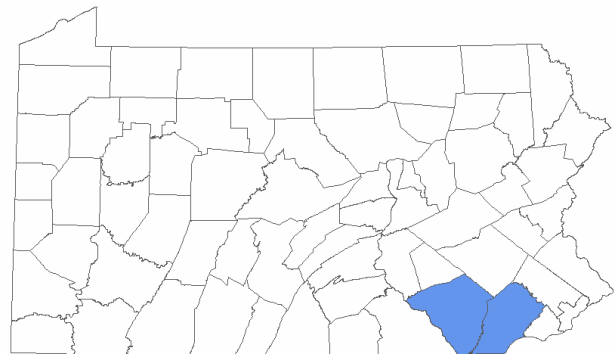
## Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Round-leaved Fame-flower to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its very specialized habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Threatened. About 15 populations are currently known from the state.

## Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Round-leaved Fame-flower and its serpentine habitat will require maintaining early successional conditions and controlling invasive species. Active management, through the use of fire, scraping, or mowing, may be needed to create the proper successional stage and ecological conditions for this species to thrive. Quarrying and habitat loss are threats in some locations.

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## NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G4** – Apparently Globally Secure; **S2** – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

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