

# Small-flowered False-foxglove

## *Agalinis paupercula*

### Description

Small-flowered False-foxglove is an herbaceous annual with a smooth, somewhat wiry, 4-sided stem that may grow to 3 feet (1 m) in height. The leaves are mostly oppositely arranged (but may become alternate on the upper stem or its branches), unstalked, linear in shape, untoothed on the margin, hairless, pointed at the tip, and to 1½ inches (4 cm) in length and to 1/8 inch (3 mm) in width. The purple flowers, appearing in August and September, are about ¾ inch (2 cm) in length and occur alternately or paired on very short (1-4 mm) stalks on the upper stem and its branches. The colored petals are united at their base and have spreading lobes near the tip. The calyx, located below the petals, is similarly united at its base and has apical lobes that are 2/5 to nearly as long as the united base, which is an important identification feature. The fruit is a globe-shaped capsule about 1/4 inch (4-6 mm) in length that contains many small seeds.



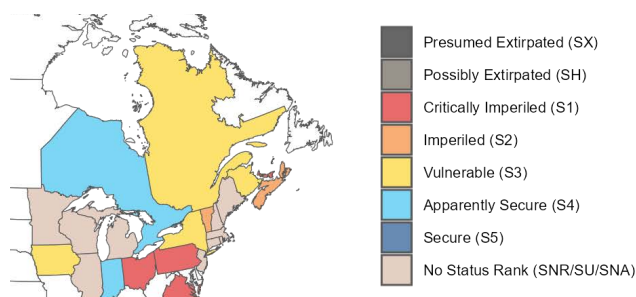
USDA-NRCS, PLANTS Database

### Distribution & Habitat

Small-flowered False-foxglove ranges from southern Canada south into Virginia and the Great Lakes states. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in the northwestern and southeastern counties. It grows in open woods and woods borders, shorelines, barrens, and clearings.

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

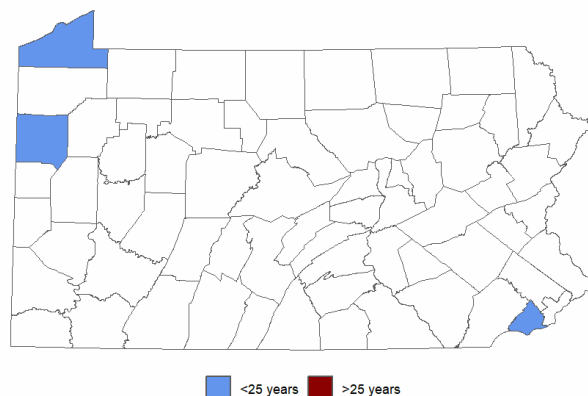
Map by NatureServe 2025



### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Small-flowered False-foxglove to be a species of special concern, based on the very few locations that have been recently confirmed and the small population sizes. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered.

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### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Small-flowered False-foxglove often requires maintaining early successional conditions and controlling invasive species. Active management, such as periodic mowing or prescribed fire, may be needed to create the proper successional stage and ecological conditions for this species to thrive. Excessive deer browse may be a threat in some locations.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G5** – Globally secure; **S1** – Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

### Reference

- 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.