

Mountain bellwort (*Uvularia puberula*)

Pennsylvania Plant Species of Concern

State Rank: S3 (vulnerable) Global Rank: G45 (secure)

What it looks like:

Mountain bellwort is a small perennial herb that grows clonally, raising multiple individual stems (or ramets) from horizontally growing rhizomes. Ramets grow from 10 to 30 centimeters tall and branch once, just above their midpoints.

Leaves are lance-shaped, shiny, and rigid, with rough margins and parallel veins. Up to four leaves grow below the stem's fork; several more from each branch above. Leaves may persist through the winter months.

Flowers are downward-drooping “bells” of six yellow-greenish petals, about 20 millimeters long.



Dennis D. Horn, from TENN vascular Plant Herbarium

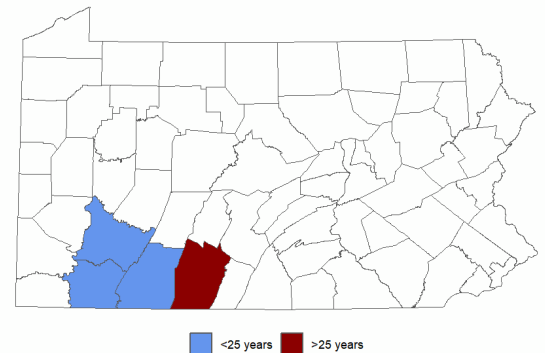
Where it is found:

Mountain bellwort grows in mountain woods throughout south-central Appalachia, from New York south to Georgia and Alabama.

Why it is rare:

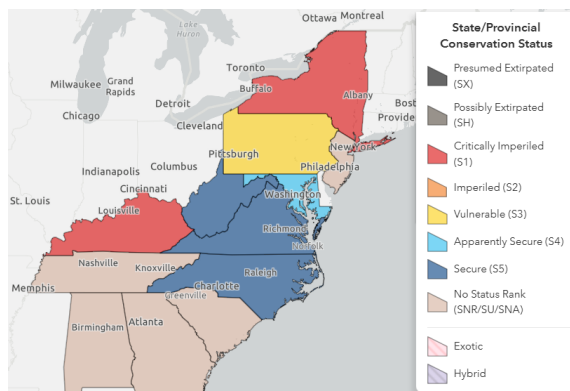
Though it is ranked as secure in Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina, mountain bellwort is much rarer at the north end of its range. It is classified as endangered in New Jersey and New York, and as rare in Pennsylvania, where five closely clustered populations are recorded.

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North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe



Conservation considerations:

Existing mountain bellwort populations will benefit most from the protection of their habitat; protected areas should be large enough to allow population growth. Control of deer browsing will likely be important, as will management of exotic plants in protected areas.



References

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