



Rare Plants of New Hampshire

False Foxglove, Fern-Leaved False Foxglove

Aureolaria pedicularia (L.) Raf. var. *intercedens* (Pennell) Fern.

(synonym- *Gerardia pedicularia* L.)

Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)

What Does It Look Like?

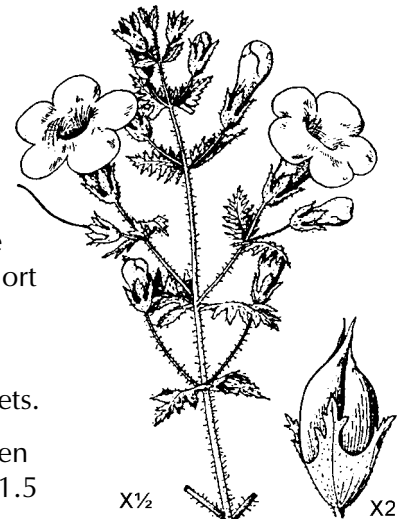
This woodland plant is an annual herb, up to 1 meter (40 inches) tall. The stems are highly branched and have lolly-pop like glands on the tips of short hairs.

Leaves: Stalkless or short-stalked, reddish-tinged, 3-6 cm (1-2.5 inches) long with 5-8 pairs of deeply cut or serrate leaflets.

Flower: The tube-shaped flowers spread out into 5 slightly uneven lobes. They are yellow tinged with brown, 2.5-4 cm (1-1.5 inch) long on upcurved, 1-2 cm (0.5-0.8 inches) long pedicels; sepals are leaf-like and spreading, glandular-hairy. It flowers from mid August to mid September.

Fruit: An egg-shaped, glandular-hairy capsule, 1-1.5 cm (0.5-0.6 inches) long with tiny seeds.

Similar species: Other false foxgloves are perennials, and do not have deeply cut leaflets or the hairs tipped with glands.

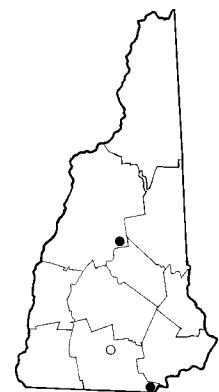


Where Is It Found?

Habitat: Across its range, false foxglove grows in dry deciduous woods and clearings. In New Hampshire, it is found in partial to open canopy situations in oak-pine forest and woodland communities on rocky slopes and ridges, outcrops, and summits.

Associated species: Red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), shag-bark hickory (*Carya ovata*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), early low blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), Virginia lespedeza (*Lespedeza virginica*), forked chickweed (*Paronychia canadensis*), little bluestem (*Schizacharium scoparium*), sicklepod (*Arabis canadensis*), and clasping aster (*Aster patens*)

Distribution: Southern Maine, west to Minnesota and south to Florida.



False Foxglove in New Hampshire

○ Historic Locations

● Verified since 1980



What Is Its Status?

Conservation

status: Populations of false foxglove are more secure farther south, but are critically imperiled in New Hampshire where it is at the northern edge of its range. It is state listed as endangered due to extreme rarity (only 2 of 3 known occurrences for the state have been confirmed since 1980).

Management: This plant thrives in fire-prone communities and may need periodic fire to maintain appropriate conditions for its survival. Modest canopy removals are not likely to seriously impact the plant if the soils, plants, and surrounding vegetation are not disturbed; it is, however, unlikely to occur in productive timber stands.

What Should You Do If You Find This Plant?

Please report sightings of this or other rare species to the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory. Documentation should include: (1) location of the sighting on USGS topographic map or road map, with written directions for relocating the plant; (2) a photo of the plant; and (3) descriptive information including how many plants there are, whether any plants are flowering or fruiting, and comments about the surrounding vegetation. Information may be sent to NHHI/DRED, PO Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856. If you have any questions, please call the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory Program at (603) 271-3623.

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