

Featherbells (*Stenanthium gramineum*)

Plant Species of Concern

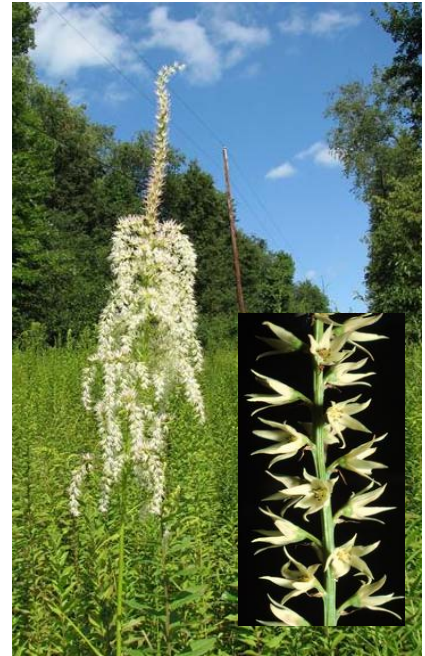
State Rank: S3 (vulnerable), **Global Rank: G4G5** (apparently secure)

Identification

This member of the Lily Family (Liliaceae) has an erect, leafy stem that can reach up to 6 feet tall. It is a slender perennial herb with a smooth stem that does not branch below the inflorescence. It's numerous leaves are 6 to 18 inches long, and ¼ inch to ½ inch wide. Stem leaves are arranged alternately and basal leaves are also present. Flowers grow in a branching terminal panicle that is 6 to 24 inches long. Flowers bloom from July through September, and have six pointed green to white tepals (petals and sepals)

Habitat

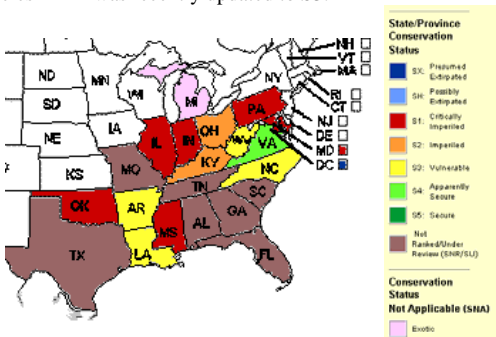
In Pennsylvania, Featherbells appear to prefer moist woods and meadows, often associated with floodplain areas. In other parts of its range it is also found in drier sites. The plant is infrequent and imperiled in most of its wide range which extends from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri south to Florida and Arkansas. Pennsylvania populations represent the northeastern boundary of this species' range and are concentrated in the western and central portions of the state.



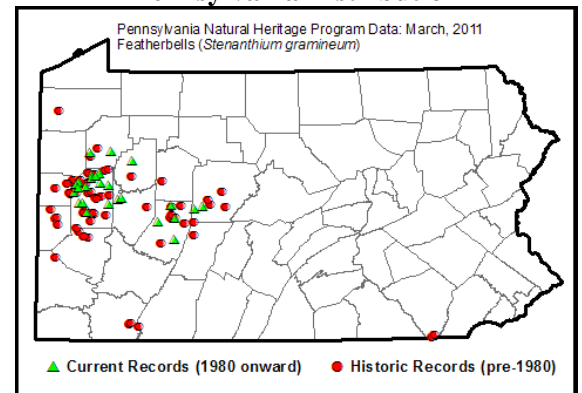
Pete Woods, PNHP

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2011). This map does not show that the status of this species in PA was recently updated to S3.



Pennsylvania Distribution



Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers featherbells to be a species of conservation concern, based on the number of recent and historic occurrences. It has a no PA legal rarity status, and a PABS suggested rarity status of Rare.

Conservation

Featherbells is threatened by high deer densities because deer preferentially browse featherbells flower stalks.

References

- NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2011.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T. A. Block. 2000. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia

