



# Dwarf Woollyheads (*Psilocarphus brevissimus* var. *brevissimus*)

Aster Family (Asteraceae)

National Status: **SPECIAL CONCERN**

Provincial Status:

**CRITICALLY IMPERILED/ EXTERMELY RARE**



## Identification

- Annual only a few centimeters tall
- Densely woolly surface giving it a greyish green appearance
- Leaves are short, narrow, and arranged opposite each other on the stem
- Upper leaves form a rosette that cup the flowers; the upper leaf tips are usually higher than the flowers
- Flowers look like a cluster of tiny cotton swabs



## Habitat

- Found in wet, drying, and dried margins of wetlands and spring flooded, shallow depressions
- The degree of spring flooding greatly influences the amount of suitable habitat



## Look-alike species

- Cudweeds (*Gnaphalium* spp.)



## Info & Distribution

- Blooms in June-July
- Known locations are in southwestern Saskatchewan



## Threats

- Utility and service lines
- Cultivation of wetlands in dry years
- Herbicide application
- Recreational activities
- Road maintenance or construction
- Oil or gas activities
- Alteration to hydrological regimes, including wetland drainage
- Invasive alien plants
- Extended drought cycle



## Best Management Practices

- Native prairie conservation
- Invasive species monitoring and control
- Conserving spring flooded, shallow depressions in cropland
- Continued grazing of prairie
- Buffering wetlands when spraying cropland
- Continued monitoring and adaptive management



Native Plant Society  
of Saskatchewan



If you see  
this plant:

- ✓ Contact NPSS
- ✗ Do not pick
- ✓ Take close-up photos
- ✓ Use something for scale
- ✓ Note the plant's location

If you see this plant, contact the  
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan:

**(306) 668-3940 OR INFO@NPSS.SK.CA**

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### Learn more

The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan's Rare Plants and Ranchers program helps to conserve the province's plant species at risk by working with landowners to develop site-specific beneficial management plans, and support its implementation by providing match funding, logistical support, and monitoring.

For more information on the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, our programs or plant species at risk, visit [www.npss.sk.ca](http://www.npss.sk.ca).

*Reference: A Pocket Guide to the Rare Plants of Southern Saskatchewan by Nature Saskatchewan.*

Photo credit: Sarah Vinge-Mazer and Hilary Pinchbeck

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Dwarf Woollyhead habitat



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