

EPILOBIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM L.
Fireweed

FAMILY: Onagraceae

SYNONYMS: *Epilobium angustifolium* L. ssp. *circumvagum* Mosquin.

HABIT: Perennial herb to 2 m.; flowering June-September; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is conspicuous and easily identified when in flower. Its tall smooth stems and large magenta to pink blooms are difficult to overlook. The alien *E. hirsutum* also is tall and bears pink flowers, but the blooms are smaller and the entire plant is hirsute. Non-flowering material cannot be identified with certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. to NJ, OH, n. IL, NE, and NM.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Columbiana, Geauga, and Lucas Counties. There are pre-1980 records from 19 counties: Ashtabula, Carroll, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Ottawa, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Wayne, and Williams.

HABITAT: This species aggressively invades man-made clearings, roadsides, logged and burnt-over areas; also in wet soil about lakes and marshes and occasionally in dry sandy soil in open woods and woods borders.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Excellent due to its variety of habitat and aggressive colonizing properties in disturbed areas.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: The range of this species in Ohio could easily change from year to year, as it colonizes newly disturbed sites and is eliminated from others by succession. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

Mosquin (1966) treats the Ohio material as the ssp. *circumvagum* (see Synonym). The typical subspecies is more northern in range.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Mosquin, T. 1966. A new taxonomy for *Epilobium angustifolium* L. (Onagraceae). Brittonia 18: 167-188.



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