

ERYNGIUM YUCCIFOLIUM Michx.
Rattlesnake-master

FAMILY: Apiaceae

HABIT: Coarse erect perennial herb to 1 m.; flowering July, August; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When in flower, *Eryngium yuccifolium* is unmistakable. The leaves superficially resemble those of *Agave* or other lilies, but differ in having a minutely spinescent margin.

TOTAL RANGE: s. US, n. to VA, IN, MN, and KS, and occasionally adventive farther north.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Athens, Lawrence, Lucas, and Scioto counties. Pre-1980 records are from Jackson County.

HABITAT: A variety of moist or dry, open situations; usually in sandy soil, occasionally in acid clays, also in limey soils; open woods, thickets, prairies, bogs, savannas, and dry banks.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession; digging of plants by wildflower gardeners.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Very good. It is easily transplanted and re-established in the proper habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification. If a specimen is desired, collect only the stems. The root system should be left undisturbed.

COMMENTS: This unusual species is conspicuous and distinctive. The state range probably is accurately known. It has disappeared, apparently from large sections of its former range in the state, probably as a result of destruction of its prairie habitat.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Bell, C.R. 1963. The genus *Eryngium* in the southeastern United States. *Castanea* 28: 73-79.

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.



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