

HELIANTHEMUM CANADENSE (L.) Michx.
Canada Frostweed

FAMILY: Cistaceae

HABIT: Subcaespitose herbaceous perennial, 2-4 dm.; flowering late May-mid June; fruiting June-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *H. canadense* is similar to *H. bicknellii* and is often confused with it. In *H. canadense*, the earlier-flowering solitary chasmogamous flowers are soon over-topped by lateral branches, whereas in *H. bicknellii* the chasmogamous (cross-pollinated) flowers occur in terminal clusters and are not over-topped by lateral branches. *H. canadense* flowers 2-3 weeks earlier than *H. bicknellii*. In Ohio, the species have been collected growing together.

TOTAL RANGE: ME and Nova Scotia to MN, s. to GA, TN, and MO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lucas, Richland, Summit, Williams, and Wood counties. There are pre-1980 records from Ashtabula, Erie, Hardin, Henry, Jackson, and Portage counties.

HABITAT: Dry sandy soil in oak openings; open upland woods, dunes, clearings, railroad embankments, and sandy riverbanks.

HAZARDS: Unknown, probably overshadowing by woody species, and possibly compaction of the soil by trampling.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown. Possibly good due to its variety of habitat and tolerance of disturbance. Bailey (1949) comments that *H. canadense* is the hardiest of the genus in cultivation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Most identification characters are based on either chasmogamous (cross-pollinated) flowers, or fruit and seed characters of cleistogamous (self-pollinated) flowers. Both flower types should be collected for accurate identification.

COMMENTS: This species may be more frequent than the records indicate and should be sought in suitable habitats throughout its range. Field botanists often do not visit drier sites until after the flowering period of this species. Because both similar species, *H. canadense* and *H. bicknellii*, have been found together, populations should be carefully examined. Occasionally *H. canadense* is offered by dealers of native wildflowers.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Bailey, L.H. 1949. Manual of cultivated plants. Macmillan Company, New York. 1116 p.

Daoud, H.S. and R.L. Wilbur. 1965. A revision of the North American species of *Helianthemum* (Cistaceae). *Rhodora* 67: 63-82, 201-216, 255-312.

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.

O'Connor, M.A. and W.H. Blackwell, Jr. 1974. Taxonomy and distribution of Ohio Cistaceae. *Castanea* 39: 228-239.



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