

HYPERICUM CANADENSE L.
Canadian St. John's-wort

FAMILY: Clusiaceae

HABIT: Annual or perennial by short leafy stolons, to 4 dm.; flowering July-September; fruiting August-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Hypericum canadense* is extremely similar to the common *H. mutilum* and to the scarce *H. boreale* and *H. majus*. The species distinctions in this group of St. John's-worts are further blurred by hybridization. These species can only be identified by careful examination of technical flower characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. and Nfld. to MN., s. to GA, AL, IL, and IA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lake, Lucas, and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Ashtabula and Erie counties.

HABITAT: Usually wet, open to semi-open situations; often in sandy soil: borders of swamps, lakeshores, and wet meadows.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

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

COMMENTS: Records of this species from widely divergent localities in the state suggest that it may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It reportedly hybridizes with *Hypericum boreale* and *Hypericum majus* (Utech and Iltis 1970). It also could be overlooked due to its small size. It should be sought throughout the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T. S. 1995. The Dicotyledonae of Ohio. Part 2: Linaceae through Campanulaceae, Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

Utech, F.H. and H.H. Iltis. 1970. Preliminary reports on the flora of Wisconsin. No. 61. Hypericaceae-St. John's-wort family. Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci, Arts, and Letters 58: 325-351.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 11/1982 James Burns, Allison W. Cusick