

KRIGIA VIRGINICA (L.) Willd.
Dwarf Dandelion

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Annual herb to 4 dm.; flowering March-August; fruiting May-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Krigia virginica* superficially resembles the common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). *K. virginica* can be distinguished by its smaller leaves (1.5-12 cm. long), which are pale, bluish- or silvery-green. The leaves of *T. officinale* are larger (6-40 cm. long) and dark or grass-green. They are ultimately distinguished by fruit or floral characters.

TOTAL RANGE: ME and VT to WI, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Lawrence, Lucas, Williams, and Wood counties. Pre-1980 records are from Athens, Auglaize, Fulton, Henry, Hocking, Lorain, and Ross counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open to semi-open situations, usually in acid, sandy soil: open woods, prairie remnants, dunes, meadows, and fallow fields.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its tolerance of disturbance. Steyermark (1963) states that this plant does well in cultivation in acid, sandy soil and can be grown easily from seed.

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

COMMENTS: *Krigia virginica* could easily be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It could be overlooked due to its superficial resemblance to the common dandelion. It should be sought in sandy, open areas throughout the state, especially in northwestern Ohio. Some populations may be adventive in origin.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC xv + 261 p.

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.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1725 p.



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