

LACTUCA HIRSUTA Muhl.
Hairy Tall Lettuce

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Leafy-stemmed annual or biennial, 3-25 dm tall; flowering and fruiting June-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It is similar to the common *Lactuca canadensis*, but its achenes are 7-10 mm long compared to 4.5-6 mm long. The frequency of hairs on the stem varies within the species and is not a reliable character (see COMMENTS).

TOTAL RANGE: P.E.I. to n. FL, w. to MI, MO, and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams and Scioto Counties. Pre-1980 records are from Jackson and Lake counties. Fisher (1988) also reports it from Athens and Lawrence counties.

HABITAT: Dry open woods, woodland clearings, and fields.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good since it grows in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: This species can be easily overlooked. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout Ohio. There are two phases in *L. hirsuta*, the typical hairy phase and the glabrous or remotely hairy phase that is often referred to as var. *sanquinea* (Bigel) Fernald. This variation makes pubescence unreliable in determining *L. hirsuta* from *L. canadensis*. Cusick and Silberhorn (1977) erroneously reported a record from Tuscarawas County. Strausbaugh and Core (1978) includes an excellent illustration of this species.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cusick, A. W. and G. M. Silberhorn. 1977. The vascular flora of unglaciated Ohio. Ohio Biol. Survey Bull. N.S. 5(4): x + 1-157.

Fisher, T. R. 1988. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 3. Asteraceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus. 280 pp.

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.

Strausbaugh P. D. and E. L. Core. 1978. Flora of West Virginia, 2nd e. Seneca Books, Grantsville, West Virginia. xi + 1079 pp.

Voss, E. G. 1996. Michigan Flora Part III Dicots (Pyrolaceae-Compositae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 61, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 622 pp.



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