

MANFREDA VIRGINICA (L.) Rose  
American Aloe

FAMILY: Amaryllidaceae

SYNONYMS: *Agave virginica* L.

HABIT: Perennial herb, stem to 2 m.; flowering late June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: So unlike all other Ohio vascular plants that it can be recognized at once by its large basal rosette of succulent leaves and its tall stem with widely spaced small leafy bracts and long loosely-flowered terminal spike.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to TX, n. in interior to WV, s. OH, IN, IL, and MO.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records in Adams and Highland counties. There are pre-1980 records from Gallia and Lawrence counties.

HABITAT: In dry soil in full sun, most often in dry prairie openings where soil is thin and calcareous bedrock is exposed or near the surface.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession, also digging by wildflower gardeners and over-collecting.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor due to its limited habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Sight records are acceptable for this species due to its distinctiveness; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: This species is at the extreme northern edge of its range in southern Ohio and probably was never very frequent here. Its distinctiveness and rather specialized habitat requirements suggest that the current knowledge of its range in the state is accurate.

Kartesz and Kartesz (1980) refer to this plant as *Manfreda virginica* and place *Agave virginica* in synonymy. However, the name *A. virginica* is retained here pending further research into this nomenclatural change.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae of Ohio: Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 464 p.

Kartesz, J.T. and R. Kartesz. 1980. A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 498 p.



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