

TRIFOLIUM REFLEXUM L.
Buffalo Clover

FAMILY: Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

HABIT: Erect annual or biennial herb forming overwintering rosettes; flowers May-July, fruits June-Aug.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The species might be confused with *T. hybridum*, *T. pratense*, or *T. stoloniferum* (Vincent 1991). *T. reflexum* has calyx teeth twice or more as long as the calyx tube, while those of *T. hybridum* and *T. pratense* are shorter than the calyx tube. The white flowers of *T. reflexum* are on long pedicels, whereas those of *T. pratense* are sessile. *T. hybridum* has brightly colored flowers. *T. stoloniferum* spreads by stolons, whereas *T. reflexum* is not stoloniferous.

TOTAL RANGE: N. FL to w. NY, w. to NE, KS, OK and TX. The species is presumed extirpated in PA, WV, VA, MD, NY and Ont. and endangered in KY, IN and OH.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is only one post-1980 record from Pike County. There are pre-1980 records Ashtabula, Belmont, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Lucas, Lake, Montgomery, Ottawa, Pickaway and Vinton Counties.

HABITAT: Rocky open woods and prairies; usually in acid soil.

HAZARDS: Overshading as a result of succession; woodland grazing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Since the species appears to respond to fire and was formerly more common in Ohio, its recovery potential may be good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete mature specimens.

COMMENTS: Ohio plants may be referred to as var. *glabrum* Lojac. The species should be sought in regions where it is considered rare or endangered in lightly wooded areas that have recently been burned or otherwise disturbed (Vincent 1991).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Campbell, J.J.N., Marc Evans, Max E. Medley and Norman L. Taylor. 1988. Buffalo clovers in Kentucky (*Trifolium stoloniferum* and *T. reflexum*): Historical records, presettlement environment, rediscovery, endangered status, cultivation and chromosome number. *Rhodora* 90: 399-418.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. *Flora of Missouri*. The Iowa State University Press, Ames IA. 1728 pp.

Vincent, Michael A. 1991. *Trifolium reflexum* L. (Buffalo Clover: Leguminosae) in Ohio, its history and present status. *Mich. Bot.* 30: 65-68.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 10/1993 Greg Schneider