

URTICA CHAMAEDRYOIDES Pursh  
Spring Nettle

FAMILY: Urticaceae

HABIT: Slender annual herb to 7 dm.; flowering late March-May, and occasionally to October; fruiting May-November.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is the only spring-blooming nettle in Ohio. Young plants superficially resemble young dead nettles (*Lamium* sp.) but can be distinguished by their stinging hairs.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to TX and Mex., n. to WV, KY, se. MO, and OK; adventive ne. to MA.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 specimens exist from Adams and Brown counties.

HABITAT: Moist rich woods, bottomlands, thickets, and waste places; often over limestone.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but possibly excessive drying of the habitat by removal of woodland canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: This species can be identified in vegetative condition, but mature flowering or fruiting material is preferred.

COMMENTS: Although the stem of *U. chamaedryoides* does not have as many stinging hairs as that of some other nettles, it should still be handled with care to avoid painful stings.

This plant may be more frequent than current records indicate. It may have been overlooked or avoided. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio; especially in the southwestern quarter.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Miller, N.G. 1971. The genera of the Urticaceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arn. Arb. 52: 40-68.



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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves