

LUPINUS PERENNIS L.
Wild Lupine

FAMILY: Fabaceae.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, stems several from creeping subterranean caudices, 2-7 dm high; palmately compound, 1-multifoliate leaves; numerous flowers in terminal erect racemes, petal color blue, occasionally pink or white; flowering May-early July; fruiting July-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The flowers and multifoliate leaves are distinctive, unlikely to be confused with other species.

TOTAL RANGE: Southern ME to FL, w. to MN, OH and IN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Summit, and Wood counties. Pre-1980 records are from Erie, Lake, Portage, and Sandusky counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open places such as oak savannas, prairies, sand barrens, and less frequent in upland woods; sandy, well-drained soils.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good since it thrives from moderate disturbances.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering material.

COMMENTS: Rare and local in northeastern Ohio, restricted to steep, sandy hillsides and former beach ridges. Frequent in the Oak Openings region of northwestern Ohio.

Disturbances, such as fires, are important in the ecology of this species. Besides loss of habitat, succession caused by fire suppression has been the major cause for this species decline.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.



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