

RHEXIA VIRGINICA L.  
Virginia Meadow-beauty

FAMILY: Melastomataceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, to 6 dm tall; stem quadrangular and evidently winged; leaves opposite, ovate to lance-ovate, serrulate; flower petals rose-purple; flowering late July to September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When in flower, this species is very distinctive and not likely to be confused with other species. Non-flowering plants may be confused with other opposite leaved herbaceous species.

TOTAL RANGE: Nova Scotia to Wisconsin south to Texas and Florida.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records from Adams, Athens, Cuyahoga, Erie, Gallia, Jackson, Lucas, Pike, Portage, Scioto, Stark, and Summit counties. Pre-1970 records from Clermont, Hamilton, Ross, and Vinton counties.

HABITAT: Open meadows and fields; often in moist sandy soil, less often in moist peaty soils.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good, as it can grow in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering material.

COMMENTS: When in flower, this species is not likely to be overlooked and its range is probably close to completely known for Ohio. *R. virginica* is rare and local in the northern part of the state, more frequent in southern Ohio.

Excluding possible local garden escapes, this is the only member of the Melastomataceae that occurs in Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1995. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio Part 2. Linaceae through Campanulaceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus. 656 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.

Wurdack, J.J. and R. Kral. 1982. The genera of Melastomataceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arnold Arb. 63: 429-439.



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