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:


Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 10/1993 Greg Schneider