

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*CEANOTHUS HERBACEUS*  
PRAIRIE REDROOT  
Family: Rhamnaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: one.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
(Low Conservation Priority)

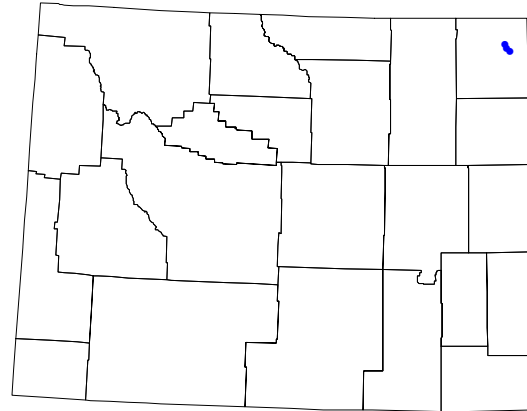
Description: Prairie redroot is a multi-branched shrub with stems to 1 m tall. The leaves are deciduous, toothed throughout along the margin, and less than 2 cm wide. Leaf blades are narrowly elliptic, 2-6 cm long, and pubescent. The inflorescence is a terminal umbel-like panicle. Flowers have a 5-lobed calyx, 5 white, hooded petals 1.5 mm long, and 5 stamens. The fruit is a 3-lobed capsule 3-4.5 mm wide (Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Similar Species: *Ceanothus velutinus* is an evergreen shrub with shiny, sticky leaves over 2 cm wide. *C. fendleri* has spiny branches, and leaves less than 2.5 cm long with entire or only apically-toothed margins (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: April-August.

Distribution: Occurs from Quebec to Montana, south to New York, Indiana, Texas, and northeast Wyoming. In Wyoming, known only from the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species is found in open wooded hillsides, prairies, and roadsides on sandy, rocky soils (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations are



Wyoming distribution of *Ceanothus herbaceus*.

found in open Ponderosa pine/Bur oak forests on sandy soils at 4500-4800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1983 (most recently in 1989). Also known from a vague, historical record ("Sundance National Forest" by L. Knowles in 1912).

Abundance: Population size not known, but presumed to be low. Marriott observed only 10 plants at the Alva summit site in 1989.

Trends: Populations may be declining. Porter and Porter reported the plant as "locally common" at the Alva summit site in 1966, but Marriott found only 10 plants in 1989. Trend data are lacking for other known colonies.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be impacted by expansion of roads, and recreation areas.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Black Hills National Forest.

References:

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