

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*MYOSOTIS VERNA*  
SPRING FORGET-ME-NOT  
Family: Boraginaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

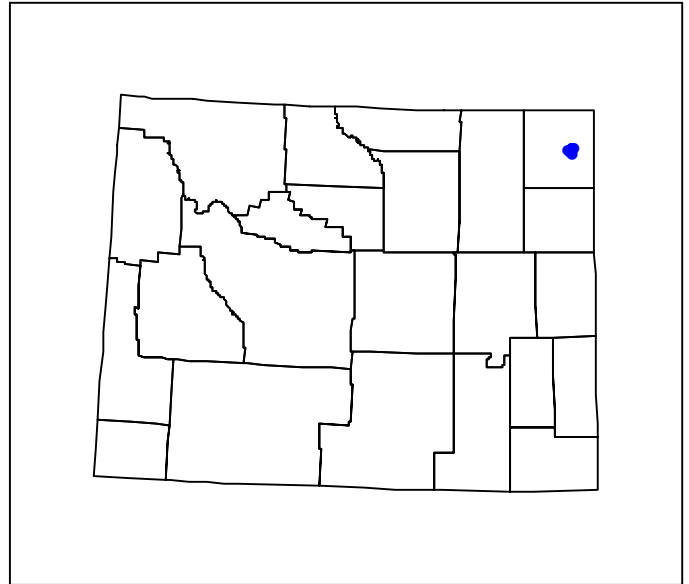
Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Spring forget-me-not is a fibrous-rooted annual forb with simple to branched stems 5-40 cm tall. Stems and leaves are coarsely pubescent throughout. Leaves are 1-5 cm long and 2-10 mm wide, with the lower leaves oblanceolate and petioled, and the upper leaves narrowly elliptic and sessile. The inflorescence is leafy below and up to 1/2 the length of the entire plant. Flowers have a 5-lobed, funnel-shaped white corolla 1-4 mm wide that barely exceeds the calyx. The calyx is 4-7 mm long, unequally divided into 2 long and 3 short lobes, and densely pubescent with hook-tipped hairs. In fruit, individual flower stalks are erect and equal to shorter than the calyx. Fruits are divided into 4 brownish nutlets (Hitchcock et al. 1959; Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Synonyms: *Myosotis virginica* (misapplied - see Hitchcock et al. 1959).

Similar Species: Other *Myosotis* species in Wyoming have corollas well over 4 mm wide, symmetrical calyx lobes, or blue flowers. *Eritrichium* spp. are matted perennials with blue flowers. *Hackelia* and



Wyoming distribution of *Myosotis verna*.

*Lappula* spp. have nutlets with hooks or barbs on the margins.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July.

Distribution: Maine to Michigan and NE Wyoming, south to Georgia and Texas and from southern British Columbia to Oregon and Idaho. In Wyoming, known only from the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: Reported from open sandy areas (Dorn 1992), moist to dry foothills and lowlands (Hitchcock et al. 1959), and wet to rather dry fields and woods (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, populations have been documented from Ponderosa pine-bur oak woodlands, open grassy ridgetops and slopes on sandy soils, and muddy edges of cattail swamps.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4-5 extant occurrences in Wyoming, 4 of which have been observed since 1985. Two populations are within 2.5 miles of each other and might be better considered as one occurrence.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on state or public lands managed for multiple use. One population on Black Hills National Forest is located just outside the Geis Springs Late Successional Landscape.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on state and Black Hills National Forest lands.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Ownbey. 1959. Pt. 4. Ericaceae through Campanulaceae. In: C.L. Hitchcock, A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(4):1-510.

Holmgren, N. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual - Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY.

Lesica, P. & J. S. Shelly. 1991. Sensitive, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants

of Montana. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Occ. Publ. No. 1. Helena, MT.

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