

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*PHYSALIS VIRGINIANA*  
VIRGINIA GROUND-CHERRY  
Family: Solanaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

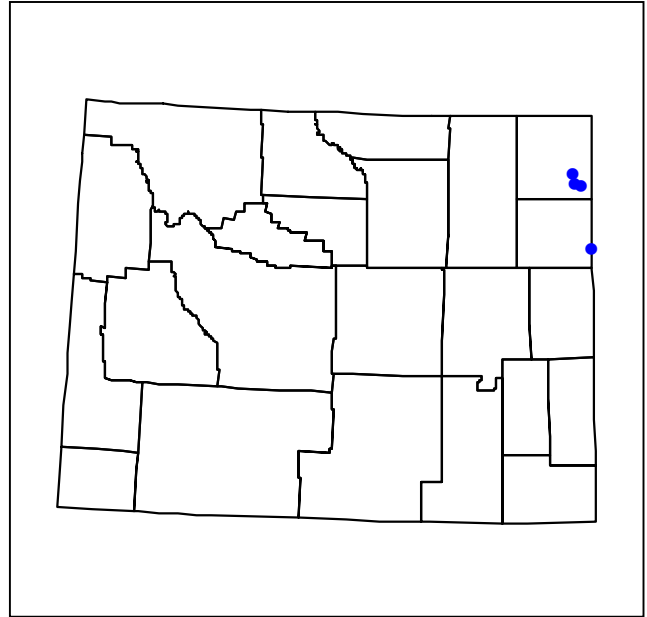
WYNDD Plant List:

(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Virginia ground-cherry is a perennial, rhizomatous herb with erect, branched stems 10-60 cm tall. Stems are pubescent with non-glandular, primarily reflexed (downward-pointed) hairs mixed with some spreading hairs. Leaves are alternate and pubescent with ovate to narrowly elliptic blades 2-5 cm long and petioles 3-20 mm long. Flowers occur singly in the axils of upper leaves and are borne on stalks 10-20 mm long. The calyx tube at flowering is 3-6 mm long and expands to 30-40 mm during fruiting. The corolla is 5-lobed, bell or funnel-shaped, 12-18 mm long, and yellow with dark spots near the base. Fruits are globe-shaped berries 10-15 mm in diameter and enclosed within the expanded calyx (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Physalis heterophylla* and *P. hederifolia* var. *comata* have densely glandular pubescent stems. *P. longifolia* is nearly glabrous or has erect-ascending or spreading hairs on the stems (Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-September.



Wyoming distribution of *Physalis virginiana*.

Distribution: Occurs from Maine and Quebec to Manitoba, south to Alabama, Oklahoma, and Arizona. In Wyoming, known only from the Black Hills in Crook and Weston counties.

Habitat: Reported from open woodlands, thickets, prairie ravines, stream valleys, roadsides, and waste places (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, populations are found on sandy slopes, moist drainage bottoms within Ponderosa pine woods, and meadows at 4800-5300 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 occurrences in Wyoming, all observed or discovered since 1984.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

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

Threats: Threats not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Black Hills National Forest and the BLM Newcastle Field Office.

References:

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

Larson, G.E. and J.R. Johnson. 1999. Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains. South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences & South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings, SD.

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