

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

SILPHIUM INTEGRIFOLIUM VAR. *LAEVE*
ROSINWEED
ASTERACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4G5T4? State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Medium conservation priority)

Description: Rosinweed is a perennial forb with few-branched, mostly glabrous stems 50-150 cm tall arising from a fibrous-rooted caudex or short rhizome. The dark green stem leaves are mostly opposite (although occasionally alternate or in whorls of 3), clasping or sessile, and 7-15 cm long and 2-6 cm wide. Leaf blades are oval, elliptic, or lance-shaped, have smooth or lightly-toothed margins, and may be rough-textured. Flower heads have oval to elliptic, overlapping leaf-like involucre bracts 1-2 cm long. Ray flowers are yellow and surround the 1.5-2.5 cm disk. The receptacle is flat with chaffy scales subtending the staminate disk flowers. The achenes are produced only by the ray flowers and are obovate to nearly round with winged margins (Perry 1937; Great Plains Flora Assoc. 1986; Farrar 1990; Dorn 1992; Fertig 1995).

Synonyms: *Silphium speciosum*.

Similar Species: *Helianthus* spp. have stalked, often narrower leaves, and fertile (achene-bearing) disk flowers. *Helenium autumnale* has conspicuously 3-cleft ray flowers and alternate leaves (Great Plains Flora Assoc. 1986; Dorn 1992; Fertig 1995).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers and fruits produced from July-September, or until frost (Farrar 1990). Reproduces by seed.

Distribution: Ranges from Iowa and southern Wisconsin south to Oklahoma, northeast Texas, Kentucky, and Alabama, with a disjunct population in southeastern Wyoming (Laramie County).

Habitat: Rangelike, this species is found on moderately dry to moist sites with rich soils in prairies, meadows, bottoms, and roadsides (Farrar 1990; Dorn 1992). In Wyoming, populations occur in mesic, subirrigated alluvial floodplain meadow at the edge of thickets of *Salix exigua* and stands of *Juncus balticus* and *Agrostis stolonifera* at 6150 feet.

Associated Rare Species: *Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, first documented in 1983 (Evert 1986). This occurrence was most recently observed in 1998.

Abundance: In 1995, only 3 plants were observed during a brief survey. The total known range is less than 1 acre. A follow-up survey in 1996 resulted in the discovery of ca 200-300 individuals in ca 0.1 acres of habitat.

Trends: Population may be declining due to competition from encroaching willows and Canada thistle.

Protection status: Single occurrence is located on F. E. Warren Air Force Base on lands managed for the Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*).

Threats: Threatened primarily by encroachment and competition from willows and noxious weeds (Canada thistle).

Managed Areas: Occurs on FE Warren Air Force Base.

References:

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Perry, L. M. 1937. Notes on *Silphium*. Rhodora 39: 281-297.

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