

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*TRADESCANTIA BRACTEATA*  
LONG-BRACT SPIDERWORT  
Family: Commelinaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: None.

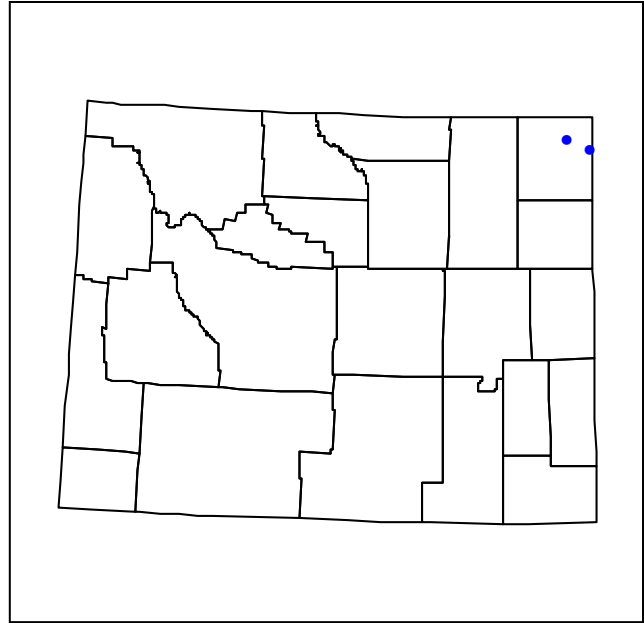
Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Long-bract spiderwort is a semi-succulent perennial forb with erect, rarely branched, glabrous to sparsely pubescent, non-glaucous stems 20-40 cm tall. Leaves are glabrous to sparsely hairy, linear-lanceolate, 8-30 cm long x 7-16 mm, and have ciliate margins. The inflorescence is an umbel-like cyme of up to 20 flowers with leafy bracts. The 3 sepals are 10-13 mm long, elliptic, purplish, and have a mix of glandular and non-glandular hairs. The 3 petals are broadly ovate, blue to purple, and 15-20 mm long. Flower stalks are densely pubescent with glandular and non-glandular hairs over 1 mm long. Filaments of the anthers are densely bearded. Fruits are globe-shaped capsules (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Tradescantia occidentalis* has glaucous, branched stems, mostly non-ciliate leaves, sepals 4-10 mm long with only glandular hairs, petals 7-16 mm long, and moderately pubescent flower stalks with hairs under 1 mm long (Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.



Wyoming distribution of *Tradescantia bracteata*.

Distribution: Occurs from Michigan to Montana south to Illinois, Iowa, and Texas. In Wyoming, this species is restricted to the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: Rangelwide, this species occurs in moist areas, prairies, and disturbed sites (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations are found in meadows and roadside areas at 3400-5000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 occurrences in Wyoming, last observed in 1983.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations occur on private or public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: May occur on Black Hills National Forest.

References:

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

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.

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Author: Walter Fertig

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