



TREES AND PLANTS

EARLEAF FALSE-FOXGLOVE

ABOUT

The Earleaf false-foxglove (*Agalinis auriculata*) is a member of the Figwort family and an annual hemiparasite. A hemiparasite is a plant that takes its water and minerals from other plants, yet has chlorophyll (the ordinary green coloring matter of vegetation) and can produce its food through photosynthesis using light energy. Earleaf false-foxglove has one simple, hairy stem growing 12-16 inches high and produces purple, one-inch flowers in the upper leaf axils (angle between leaf and stem) in August and September. Blossoms resemble its relative garden foxglove; funnel-shaped with five lobes and four stamens. Earleaf (or Eared) false-foxglove derives its name from the uppermost leaves having lobes that stick out at the base, reminiscent of earlobes. Fruit are capsules about ½ inch long that mature in early November. Seeds are dormant when dispersed, but germinate following a combination of cold, moisture, and then sunlight in the spring.

DID YOU KNOW?

Earleaf false-foxglove grows in dry prairies, fallow (untilled) fields, open dry woods, and the borders of upland forests. The species is either endangered or threatened in nine states, and of an original 16 known Pennsylvania locations, populations can only be found in two areas today. The plant is extremely rare, and historically Earleaf false-foxglove is known to have grown from New Jersey to Minnesota, south to Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. In Oklahoma, Earleaf false-foxglove was found in Cleveland and Muskogee counties in the 1920s. These populations have now been relocated, only occurring in prairie hay meadows bordered by upland woods in Choctaw County. Habitat destruction for road building and other development is the leading cause of the decline of this plant.

For more detailed information visit: www.dcnr.state.pa.us or www.centerforplantconservation.org.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

In how many states is the Earleaf false-foxglove listed as endangered or threatened?

- a. 16
- b. 9
- c. 2
- d. 32

Answer is B.

