



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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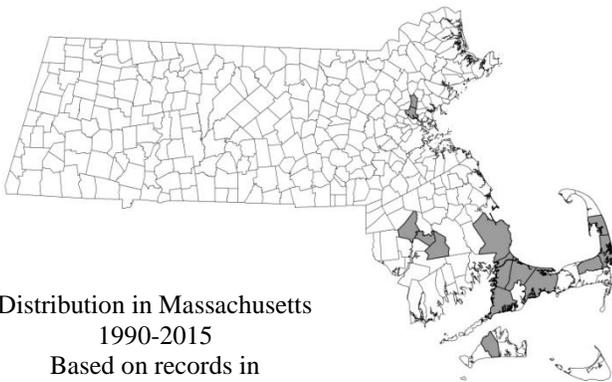
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Rose Coreopsis *Coreopsis rosea* Nutt.

State Status: **None**
Federal Status: **None**

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Rose Coreopsis is a showy perennial composite with pink, daisy-like flowers that have a yellow center. Plants grow up to about two feet high, in clumps or small groups. The stems are often unbranched and the leaves are very narrow and thread-like. There are no basal leaves. The flowers are a half-inch to one inch across and appear in summer and fall.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: All the current populations of Rose Coreopsis are in eastern Massachusetts, in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Middlesex, and Plymouth counties. The species was also found historically in Norfolk County. The majority of the current sites are in Plymouth and Barnstable counties; Bristol, Dukes, and Middlesex counties only have one or two sites each. About 111 sites in total, both current and historic, have been documented in the state for this species. Although it is a globally rare species, this plant grows on the shores of most coastal plain ponds in Massachusetts, often with numbers over 100 stems; at some, the stems count is tens of thousands.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1990-2015
Based on records in
Natural Heritage Database
Map updated 2015



Photo by Jennifer Garrett, NHESP

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Rose Coreopsis grows on the edges of coastal plain ponds, a globally rare type of freshwater pond. Coastal plain ponds are usually fed by groundwater, with no inlets or outlets, and hence have water levels that vary widely over the year. Rose Coreopsis usually grows on the gently sloping sandy shores of these ponds close to the water's edge, where it can be inundated by water level changes. Associated species include Plymouth Gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*), Redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliana*), Terete Arrowhead (*Sagittaria teres*), Golden Pert (*Gratiola aurea*), and Northern Meadow-beauty (*Rhexia virginica*), among other plants common to coastal plain pondshores.

THREATS: The primary threats to Rose Coreopsis are direct destruction of habitat by all forms of development, destruction of individual plants by off-road vehicles or trampling, displacement by invasive plant species, anthropogenic nutrient input to the naturally low-nutrient ponds, alteration of coastal plain pond hydrology by water withdrawals or climate change, and, possibly, fire

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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exclusion. Rose Coreopsis prefers open areas; where shrubs and trees invade the pondshores because they are not suppressed by fire or flooding, Rose Coreopsis will tend to disappear. However, this species appears better able to persist at degraded sites than other plants specialized to coastal plain pondshores.

REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. Second Edition. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://explorer.natureserve.org>. (Accessed: January 22, 2015).

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