

SFI Biodiversity Species Fact Sheet

Fogg's Goosefoot (*Chenopodium foggii*)

Globally Imperiled Plant Species; State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled) Global Rank: G2G3 (imperiled to vulnerable)

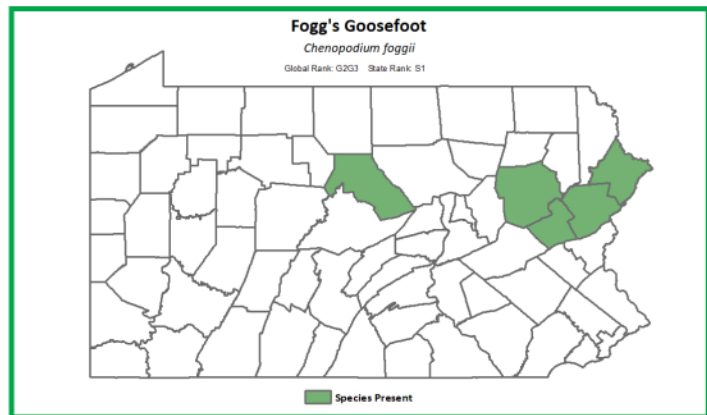
Identification

Fogg's goosefoot is an annual herbaceous plant ranging in height from about 7-40 inches tall. The leaves are small (less than half inch to 1.5 inches long and about 2 to 7 inches wide) and arranged alternately along the stem. The leaves are linear, usually slightly lobed or toothed near the base. The leaves and sepals are farinose (covered with inflated hairs). The fruits are arranged horizontally with the pericarp separated from the seed.



Biology-Natural History

This annual herb has very small flowers, with five whitish, mealy, keeled sepals born on short spikes. The sepals mostly conceal the fruit, and they mature uniformly. The fruit is lens-shaped, small, thin walled, one-seeded, and inflated, with small spines, and a papery outer layer that separates easily from the seed. The fruiting time in the northeast ranges from August through October.



Distribution & Habitat

Fogg's goosefoot inhabits dry soils of open woodlands, edges, and sunny rocky outcrops, over circumneutral or calcareous bedrock, especially dry, shaly slopes. It prefers open hardwood forests or mixed forests and woodlands such as pine-oak forests. Associated species include black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and cliff-fern (*Woodsia obtusa*). In North America, Fogg's goosefoot ranges from eastern Canada to Virginia. There are only 15 sites believed to be present. In Pennsylvania, it is rare in the north-east to north-central region.

Conservation Concerns

Fogg's goosefoot requires partial sun exposure. Forest maturation and canopy closure, resulting from a lack of natural or anthropogenic disturbance, often casts too much shade. Invasive and exotic plant species may over shade or out compete Fogg's goosefoot. This species also tends to grow around recreational trails where it can be damaged by trampling, erosion, or trail maintenance.

Management Practices

Sites with Fogg's goosefoot present should be monitored for over-shading caused by habitat succession, and for invasive plant species. Known populations of Fogg's goosefoot that do not receive enough light can be managed with canopy thinning or prescribed burning. If found near a recreational area trails can be stabilized to prevent erosion, or the trails can be re-routed to prevent unintentional harm. If anyone observes this species they should call the jurisdictional agency, DCNR Bureau of Forestry at 717-787-3444.