

FROELICHIA FLORIDANA (Nutt.) Moq.
Cottonweed

FAMILY: Amaranthaceae

HABIT: Stout annual herb to 2 m.; flowering July-September; fruiting August- October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Froelichia* can be distinguished from other genera of Ohio amaranths by the white, wooly, conic spikes of fruits, flowers, and buds, from which the common name is derived. *F. floridana* may be confused with the non-indigenous *F. gracilis*, which is a smaller and more slender plant. Measurement of fruiting heads is needed for accurate determination.

TOTAL RANGE: Coastal states from s. DE and e. MD to LA; disjunct inland from IN and WI to s. IL and MO, and from SD to TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Washington County.

HABITAT: Dry, open, sandy soil; especially in disturbed areas: sand and gravel bars along streams, along railroads, roadsides, agricultural fields, and waste ground.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed excellent due to its tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: There is some question as to whether this species is indigenous to Ohio. Examination of the total range and habitat suggests that it was introduced from the west and may be adventive in disturbed areas. However, its local occurrence on Teays Age Ohio River terraces argues in favor of its being native to Ohio. More research is required to clarify this problem.

Some authors treat the Ohio material as the var. *campestris* (Small) Fernald. The taxonomic status of this entity is unclear.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Reed, C.F. 1962. New records for *Froelichia* in eastern United States. *Castanea* 27: 59-61.

Robertson, K.R. 1981. The genera of the Amaranthaceae in the southeastern United States. *J. Arn. Arb.* 62: 267-313.



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