



Species at Risk Profile Series: Tiny Cryptantha



© Al Schneider

- Tiny Cryptantha is listed as Threatened in Canada.
- Look for a 10-20 cm (4-8 in) plant covered in bristly hairs, with smaller leaves closer to the top. The white flowers are tube-shaped and open from May to July.
- It is an annual, and seeds have bristles that attach to passing animals for dispersal.
- It is found in dry, native prairies next to river systems and requires bare soil for growth.
- There is little known about how they are pollinated.
- Seeds do not germinate until appropriate moisture and temperature conditions occur.
- Seeds are likely able to remain viable for several years, until suitable conditions occur.
- Both large and small seeds are produced, which use different germinating conditions.
- These seed differences result in two strategies to deal with potential weather conditions.



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

SCA
SASKATCHEWAN
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Conservation

- Habitat loss and degradation is the greatest threat to Tiny Cryptantha.
- Residential development has resulted in habitat destruction.
- Recreational and industrial vehicle use has negatively impacted habitat & individuals.
- Invasive species reduce diversity and habitat quality.
- Conversion of native prairie to cropland or pasture destroys habitat.
- Cattle grazing reduces ground cover, creating suitable habitat.

Get involved

- Read the assessment report for Tiny Cryptantha [here](#).
- Allow minor to moderate grazing to reduce ground cover.

Photo credit: Photo ©Al Schneider, www.swcoloradowildflowers.com (front)
Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2012. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Tiny Cryptantha *Cryptantha minima* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. x + 37 pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm).