

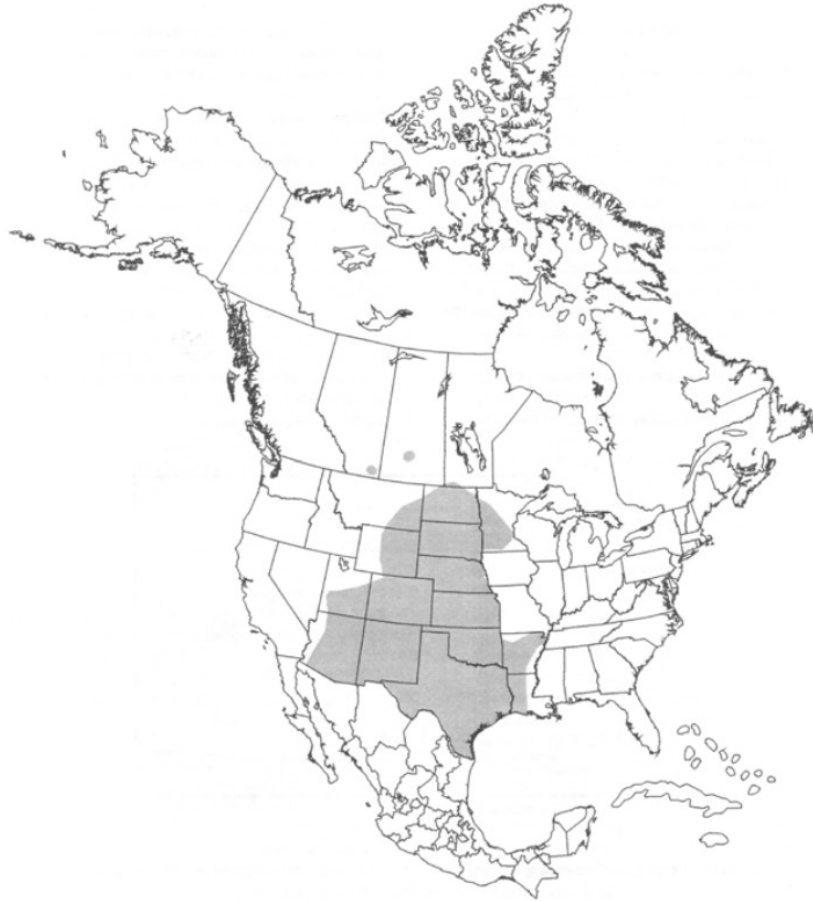


Species at Risk Profile Series: Western Spiderwort



- Western Spiderwort is listed as Threatened in Canada.
- Look for a 5-61 cm (2-24 in) plant with long, thin leaves that swell where they clasp the stem. The flowers are white, pink, or dark blue and open from May to July.
- Flowers last for one day and close by the middle of the day.
- It is found on south-facing slopes of partly-stabilized dunes.
- Shade helps prevent the plant's fleshy leaves from drying out.
- It is a perennial, and survives the winter better when it has an insulative layer of snow.
- It may not flower until it is large or old enough, and this depends on growing conditions.
- After seeds are dropped, the stem shrivels and the following year's shoots are produced.
- Due to their large size, seeds do not disperse far.
- It may reproduce by creating new stems from its roots.





Conservation

- Major threats to Western Spiderwort are associated with habitat loss and degradation.
- Stabilization of sand dunes is a major cause of habitat loss.
- Native grasslands are required, but most have been converted to agriculture.
- Oil and gas drilling can reduce available habitat and introduce non-native plants.
- Invasive plants reduce diversity and lower habitat quality.
- It is often associated with light to moderate grazing.

Get involved

- Read the recovery strategy Western Spiderwort [here](#).
- Allow light to moderate grazing in areas where this plant may occur.

Photo credit: Western Spiderwort by Nature Saskatchewan used with permission (front)
Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2002. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Western spiderwort *Tradescantia occidentalis* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 25 pp.