

Best survey time: Due to its striking pink flowers, meadow-beauty is most easily located when in flower during July and August. It can also be easily recognized when in fruit during late August to September. With its opposite, prominently veined leaves, it can be identified as early as June or July, depending upon latitude and yearly weather conditions. However surveys are not recommended this early unless one is quite familiar with the plant.

Habitat: Throughout Michigan, meadow-beauty has been found in coastal plain marshes, sandy lake edges, dune swales, seepages, sandy marshes, sandy, peaty edges of wetlands, and sandy intermittent wetlands. Although it appears to be less conservative than many of Michigan's other Coastal Plain disjunct species in terms of habitat, it does show an affinity to locations which have a fluctuating water table. It is frequently found in association with other Coastal Plain disjunct species, including such plants as *Rhynchospora macrostachya* (beak-rush), *Eleocharis melanocarpa* (spike-rush), *Solidago remota* (lakes flat-topped goldenrod), *Bartonia paniculata* (panicled screw-stem), and *Rhexia mariana* var. *mariana* (Maryland meadow beauty).

Biology: Meadow beauty flowers in late summer and fruits from late August through September. Throughout its range it is known to hybridize with other *Rhexia* species (Gleason and Cronquist 1991) and it may hybridize with *Rhexia mariana* in Michigan, though it is yet to be documented.

Conservation/management: Meadow-beauty is undoubtedly sensitive to changes in hydrology, and maintenance of the natural hydrology of its habitat is critical. Activities in adjacent uplands that may adversely impact its wetland habitat should be avoided and preservation of natural coastal plain marsh habitat will be particularly important for maintaining quality habitat for the species.

Research needs: Further survey work is needed to adequately assess the status of *Rhexia virginica* in Michigan.

Related abstracts: coastal plain marsh, panicled screw-stem.

Selected references:

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