**Arabis glabra (L.) Bernh.**

Tower Mustard

**Starting references**

Family
Brassicaceae

IUCN category (2001)
Endangered

**Habit**

Herb (biennial, rarely perennial).

**Habitat**

Grassy places and disturbed ground on free-draining sandy soils over chalk and limestone.

**Reasons for decline**

Habitat destruction due to agricultural intensification and building development. Habitat neglect, which results in a lack of open ground for regeneration and the development of coarse competing vegetation.

Overgrazing by rabbits has been suggested. Although tower mustard is a Breckland species there is evidence that it is susceptible to high levels of rabbit grazing.

**Distribution in wild**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Locality &amp; Vice County</th>
<th>Sites (10km² occurrences)</th>
<th>Population (plants)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Surrey, N. Hampshire, Berkshire, N. Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Breckland, Norfolk &amp; Suffolk</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Small-1000s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ex situ Collections**

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

1. Roamer House
2. Cambridge University Botanic Garden
3. Mark Hall Arboretum
4. RHS Hyde Hall
5. Writtle College
6. RBG Kew
7. RHS Wisley
8. Longstock Park Gardens
9. Mottisfont Abbey Rose Garden
10. Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum
11. Staunton Country Park
12. The Harris Garden
13. Windsor, The Savill & Valley Gardens
14. Akely Wood Farmhouse
15. Cliveden (NT)
16. Bristol Zoo Gardens
17. University of Bristol Botanic Garden
18. Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses, Westbourne
19. University of Birmingham Botanic Garden, Winterbourne

Botanical Collections with specialisation on family Brassicaceae or genus *Arabis*

None

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

Cultivation *ex situ* seems to indicate that the plant is susceptible to winter damp (Rich & Rose 1995).
Conservation information
Linkages to BAPs
A Species Action Plan has been produced for *Arabis glabra*, lead partner is Dominic Price, Plantlife Tel:01722 342749.

The following LBAPs are working on the species:
BAP for Gloucestershire
London
Suffolk Local BAP
Wokingham District

Habitat Management
The scarification of one Hampshire site resulted in a doubling of the population. In Breckland no special conservation measures are required at present, as the species is rather invasive. Protected sites with records for *Arabis glabra* are listed on http://www.searchnbn.net

Conservation programmes
Conservation work for this species is ongoing under Plantlife’s ‘Back from the Brink’ project which is supported by English Nature’s Species Recovery Programme. The following work has already been undertaken for sites in Surrey and Hampshire:
A survey of all known sites.
Habitat management including scrub clearance and ground disturbance.
Seed has been collected and kept in cultivation.

Web References
- NBN Gateway database : http://www.searchnbn.net