

Viola persicifolia Schreb.

Fen Violet

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Violaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Endangered

Habit

Creeping herb (perennial).

Habitat

Wet, peaty, base-rich soils in fens.

Reasons for decline

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Woodwalton & Wicken Fens, CambridgeshireOtmoor, Oxfordshire	2 1	0->1,000 50 in 1997

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Cambridge University Botanic Garden
- 2 Docwra's Manor
- 3 University of Oxford Botanic Garden

Gardens of specialisation on family Violaceae

Bristol Zoological Gardens

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

From Cambridge University Botanic Garden, *Conservation Collection* from the 1970s to the 1990s:

Fairly shade intolerant.

Seeds germinate in very wet conditions, but the seedlings don't survive very well. If prolonged waterlogging occur (in the field), it could prove quite damaging to the population.

Plants submerged for several weeks in the late summer, and looked very sickly, quickly recovered when moved to drier conditions.

Plants are very resistant to hard cutting-back and seem to thrive on pruning, and so presumably they are tolerant to some grazing.

Seed production is apparently very poor (wild).

From 1982-1984, pots were set at 3 different levels in a tank of water. Within a month it was clear that waterlogged plants were suffering badly by comparison with those grown in drier, though still moist conditions (Annual report, 1984).

Conservation information

Viola persicifolia is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Linkages to BAPs

Oxfordshire's Habitat Action Plans

Cambridgeshire BAP.

Habitat Management

All are NNR fenland sites.

Conservation programmes

English Nature Species Recovery Programme objectives have been met for *Viola persicifolia* during 1996/97.

The Oxfordshire area was surveyed in May 1997 as part of English Nature's Action Plan. About 30 plants were found, and seed has been collected.
English Nature Contact, Peterborough Head Office Jill Sutcliffe, tel 01733 45 52 54,
jill.sutcliffe@english-nature.org.uk

Web References

- Images: http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/viola_persicifolia_fen_violet.htm
<http://www.bioimages.org.uk/HTML/T57775.HTM>
- English Nature : <http://www.english-nature.org.uk>

References

Wells, T.C.E., Preston, C.D., Mountford, J.O., & Croft, J.M. 1995. *Species recovery programme: fen violet (Viola persicifolia) 2nd progress*. Unpublished report to English Nature and the Natural Environmental Research Council.