Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects
Decurrent False Aster

Boltonia decurrens

Common name • Decurrent False Aster
Scientific name • *Boltonia decurrens*
Federal status • Threatened
State status • Endangered

Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended to be used as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. If that is the goal, please contact the Department of Conservation for habitat management information. Because every project and location differs, following the recommendations within this document does not ensure that impacts will not occur to the species and additional information might be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations within this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

Ecology

Decurrent False Aster is a big river floodplain species that grows in wetlands and on the borders of marshes, lakes, oxbows, and sloughs. It also may be found in old fields, roadsides, agricultural fields, and on levees. It favors sites characterized by moist soil and regular disturbance, preferably periodic flooding, which maintains open areas with high light levels. Today it is found in areas where succession is prevented and sunlight is allowed to reach the seedlings. It is a perennial plant that blooms from August through October. Seed dispersal is achieved primarily by floodwater. Decurrent False Aster once occurred in almost contiguous populations in about a 250 mile band between LaSalle, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri, within the Illinois and Mississippi River floodplains. In Missouri, Decurrent False Aster is presently known to occur only in the eastern one-half of St. Charles County in areas subject to Mississippi River flooding.

Reasons for Decline

Populations of Decurrent False Aster declined as floodplain wetlands were converted for agricultural and other uses. It is currently threatened by flood-control measures, agricultural use of marginal river-bottom land, increased siltation of floodwater, herbicide use for weed control, and construction. Changes in flooding regimes which allow succession of habitats to shade-producing species are also a threat.

Specific Recommendations

Projects in areas where Decurrent False Aster is likely to occur should include a survey during the August to October flowering period to determine if the species is present.

- Maintain open, moist, early successional habitat that receives periodic inundation from Mississippi river floodwater. Established populations need newly-disturbed areas in which to spread.
- Avoid general application of non-specific herbicides. Monocot-specific herbicides can be spot-applied with minimal threat to Decurrent False Aster.
- Resurvey following significant flooding as Decurrent False Aster populations are frequently redistributed by flood waters.
- Use cutting, prescribed burns, or herbicides to reduce colonization of sites by cottonwoods, willows, and other wetland woody species.
- Low, wet areas of agricultural fields occupied by Decurrent False Aster should be cultivated only with adequate frequency to prevent succession to heavy shade-producing species, perhaps every third year.
- Avoid any changes to drainage patterns that would lessen accessibility of sites to Mississippi river flood waters.
- Avoid mowing of Decurrent False Aster populations May through October growing period.

General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Wetlands.

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm for additional information on recommendations.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding construction projects in wetlands, contact:

For species information:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Resource Science Division
P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203-0007
Telephone: 573/234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573/751-1300, 800/361-4827

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Telephone: 913/551-7307

Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects, and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.