

# Peter's Mountain Mallow

*Iliamna corei*

## Description

Peter's Mountain mallow is known only from a single population on Peters Mountain in Giles County, Virginia above the New River at The Narrows. This species was first discovered in 1927. It is a perennial herb that grows up to 3.5 feet tall and has large, pink, odorless flowers two inches in diameter.

## Life History

This plant is found in pockets of shallow soil on an outcrop of sandstone on a northwest-facing slope approximately 3,000 feet above sea level. The population is growing in a forest with a few pines. It appears to grow best in full sunlight, but can tolerate some shade. Peter's Mountain mallow can produce fifteen to twenty blooms during the flowering season of June through August. Fruiting takes place from July through October. This species reproduces by seeds and asexually. The flowers are apparently pollinated primarily by sweat bees and germination is enhanced by fire.

## Conservation

The Peter's Mountain mallow was federally listed as an endangered species on June 11, 1986. Recovery efforts for this plant are going well. However, several aspects of the plant's life history and environment present obstacles to the establishment of a self-maintaining population, including disruption of a natural fire regime, small population size, threat of herbivory, and weak seed dispersal. Other threats include competition from

other plants, shading due to growth of the overhead forest canopy, and unauthorized collection. Accumulation of leaf litter may also hinder seed germination. Since 1992, prescribed burns have occurred in and around the species' habitat, greatly aiding in the conservation of this species.

## What you can do to help

When visiting Peter's Mountain and The Narrows follow all signs and do not enter restricted areas. For information about The Narrows contact: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage 217 Governor Street, 3rd Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 804/786 7951

## References

Dunscomb, J.K., R. Edwards, and M. Lipscomb. 1997. Prescribed burn and monitoring studies for the Peter's mountain mallow (*Iliamna corei*). The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Field Office Technical Report 97-3.

Porter, D.M. 1991. Peter's Mountain mallow. 1991. Pages 130-133 in K. Terwilliger, ed. Virginia's Endangered Species, Proceedings of a Symposium. McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, Blacksburg, Virginia.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Peter's Mountain mallow (*Iliamna corei*) recovery plan. Newton Corner, Massachusetts.



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