



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office  
Species Account  
SAN FRANCISCO LESSINGIA  
*Lessingia germanorum*



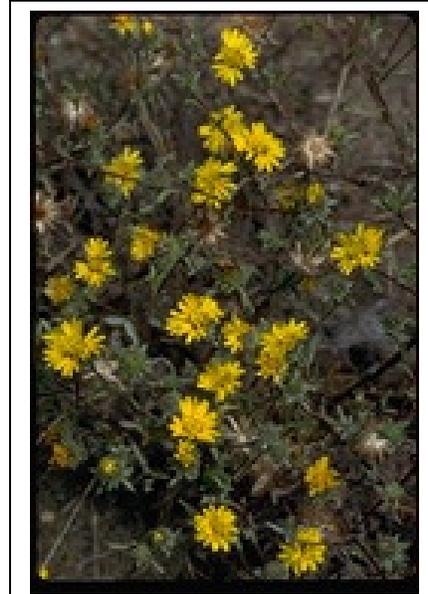
**CLASSIFICATION:** Endangered wv  
Federal Register Notice 62:33368; June 19, 1997  
[www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/federal\\_register/fr3093.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/federal_register/fr3093.pdf)  
(59 KB)

**STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:**  
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in January 1990. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

**CRITICAL HABITAT:** None designated

**RECOVERY PLAN:** Recovery Plan for Coastal Plants of the Northern San Francisco Peninsula  
[www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/recovery\\_plan/031006.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/recovery_plan/031006.pdf)  
(6 MB)

**5-YEAR REVIEW:** None



San Francisco Lessingia  
Jo-Ann Ordano  
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**DESCRIPTION:**

San Francisco lessingia is a low-growing, slender-stemmed annual herb of the aster family (Asteraceae). No other annual *Lessingia* species occur within the range of San Francisco lessingia on the San Francisco Peninsula, making it easy to distinguish

Seedlings and young vegetative plants develop from unbranched rosettes of oblanceolate (spear-shaped but tapered at base, wide and rounded at tip) leaves. As the plant matures, some lateral shoots elongate markedly and then branch profusely, developing a decumbent (growing mostly through lateral branches) growth habit.

Mature plant heights can range from less than 5 centimeters (2 inches) in stunted plants, to 0.3 meter (1.2 feet) tall. Mature stems are reddish brown and are tomentose (with loose grayish woolly hairs).

Leaves on mature stems are small, 0.5 to 3.0 centimeters (0.2-1.2 inches). Most are less than 1 centimeter (0.3 inch), pinnately lobed (branching from a single central vein), toothed or entire (lacking teeth and lobes). They can be oblanceolate or long tapered obovate (egg-shaped, but widest at the far end). They are grayish-green due to dense woolly hairs.

Flowerheads appear from late summer through fall. They occur singly or in loose clusters at the ends of stems. Depending on plant size, individuals may bear a few to hundreds of flowerheads. The fruit is an achene (a seed-like dry fruit) 1 to 3 millimeters (0.04-0.12 inch) with tan or whitish pappus.

See Jepson Manual, below, for a more detailed description.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

San Francisco lessingia exists at six sites in the Presidio of San Francisco and one site in Daly City.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: San Francisco South (448B) 3712264, San Francisco North (466C) 3712274

#### THREATS:

The species is threatened by invasion of nonnative vegetation, habitat loss, and potential land use conflicts in limited restorable urban habitat.

#### REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

##### [General references about California plants](#)

[www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant\\_spp\\_accts/plant\\_references.htm](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm)

[The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California](#). This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

For larger images and permission information see CalPhotos <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/>.

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