

IDENTIFICATION: Leafy-prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*) is a perennial member of the pea, bean and legume family (Fabaceae) that typically grows up to 18-24 inches. Leaves are pinnately compound, alternate and approximately 1.4 to 1.8 inches in length. Each leaf may have up to 30 leaflets. It produces small, cone-shaped purple flowers in late July through August. Seeds have been reported as remaining viable for up to eight years in the seed bank.

This species is closely associated with limestone cedar glades in north Alabama. Areas within and along the glade boundary with deeper soils are preferred over areas with shallow soils. Favors sites with a wet spring and fall and a dry summer. At the time of [final listing](#) in 1991, this species was only known to occur at two sites in Franklin and Morgan counties. Since then, a



population in Lawrence County has been documented by the Natural Heritage Section of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Critical habitat has not been designated.

The most significant threats to this species include direct destruction of habitat for commercial, residential, or industrial development, intensive right-of-way maintenance activities and overgrazing. No critical habitat has been designated but owners and managers of all the known populations have been made aware of the importance of protecting the plant and its habitat.

FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS: This species needs full sun and has trouble with encroachment by woody species. Prescribed fire may be helpful to minimize competition and scarify its seed. Herbicide use may be useful to limit invasive plants such as privet. Cedar glades are home to several listed plant species. Be sure to read and follow label directions prior to using in these unique habitats. Adjacent heavy equipment use or harvesting should be well planned so as not to disrupt the hydrology of the glade habitat.

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY: It is found in Franklin, Lawrence and Morgan counties. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes it may also be found in Colbert and Cullman counties.

Photo Credits: Dr. T. Wayne Barger, Natural Heritage Section, Alabama State Lands Division



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