

# Field pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*)

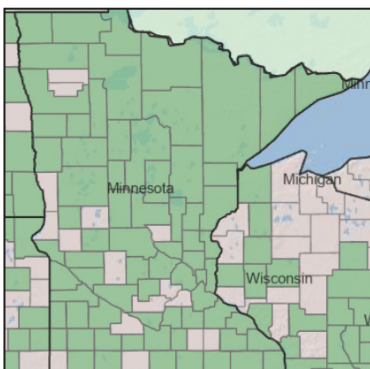
## Family: Aster (Asteraceae)

**DESCRIPTION:** The soft silvery leaves and wispy spring flowers of field pussytoes can be seen in Minnesota's dry prairies and bluffs, where the slow-growing colonizers help to stabilize the soil of these delicate ecosystems. The plants spread slowly via horizontal stems and by seeds carried on the wind.

**USES:** Field pussytoes are an excellent groundcover for the sunny areas of a garden. They function well as a border along pavement because, like many other dry prairie species, they tolerate salt. They can also handle some shade, and over time can replace mulch in a prairie garden. Early spring flowers are essential nectar sources for emerging pollinators. The foliage is a host for the **American lady butterfly** (pictured).

### REFERENCES:

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)  
[Minnesota Seasons](#)  
[Missouri Botanical Garden](#)  
[The Prairie Ecologist](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



## Planting Recommendations

Use this native groundcover around mailboxes and in rock gardens to attract pollinators while maintaining a neat appearance. Partly sunny sites with sandy or gravelly soil will provide the best growing conditions. Because field pussytoes are drought-tolerant, plants don't require watering once they're established. Plants can be grown from seeds or plugs. It's possible to plant seeds outdoors in fall or early spring without indoor stratification. Seeds also can be collected in

late spring or early summer and stored in a paper bag until February or March, when they can be stratified for planting in late spring or summer. To stratify, place seeds in a container of damp sand (with or without the tufts of white hair attached) and refrigerate for two months. Then sprinkle the sand mixture on the surface of the soil, either in flats or directly in the garden. Germination can take several weeks. Pussytoes also can be divided and transplanted during the growing season.

**Developed by Genevieve Brand**, assistant regional ecologist at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, who has been growing and gardening with Minnesota native plants since 2005

**Plant Photo Credit:** Genevieve Brand  
**Insect Photo Credit:** Heather Holm



**STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS:** FACU

**ID:** Most of the leaves are basal, growing up to 2.5 inches long. Toothless and green, they're covered with white hairs that give the plant its silver appearance. Flowers bloom in April and May, resembling small white tufts of fur. Field pussytoes can grow up to 6 inches tall when they're in bloom.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** Sweet everlasting's (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) leaves and stems are covered in white hairs and plants produce small white flowers, but it is a much larger biennial, growing up to 2.5 feet tall, and it does not form a groundcover.