

**Natural Heritage Resource Highlight:** Torrey's mountain mint

**Global Rarity Rank:** G2- Imperiled      **State Rarity Rank:** S2-Imperiled

**Legal Status:** Federal Listing-Species of Concern / State Listing-Threatened



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[Torrey's mountain mint](#) is a globally rare state listed perennial herb with a mint-like odor. It measures 3 feet in height and has small white to purple flowers arranged in dense, terminal clusters (Strausbaugh & Core, 1979). It occurs in dry, rocky deciduous woods, along roadsides, powerline rights-of-way, calcareous seepage, and in thickets near streams. Populations of Torrey's mountain mint are found as small, dense colonies and are sensitive to minor habitat disturbances as well as stochastic events. Additional threats include woody plant succession, invasive species, herbicide use in rights-of-way and roadside locations, road maintenance work, and general habitat destruction (NatureServe 2011). Surveys for this species should be conducted during the June-September flowering/fruiting period. Torrey's mountain mint can occur on diabase soils, historically within diabase glades in the inner coastal plain. Diabase glades are characterized by historically fire-dominated grassland vegetation on relatively nutrient-rich soils underlain by Triassic bedrock. As of 2025, 3 extant occurrences of this state listed rare plant are documented from the coastal zone localities of Fairfax County and King William County, and one occurrence is historically documented from Fairfax County and the City of Arlington.

Literature Cited

- NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 8, 2011).
- Strausbaugh, P.D. and E.L. Core. 1979. Flora of West Virginia, Second Edition. Seneca Books, Inc. Grantsville, WV. p. 818.