



**Common Name:** CANADA BURNET

**Scientific Name:** *Sanguisorba canadensis* Linnaeus

**Other Commonly Used Names:** American burnet

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** none

**Family:** Rosaceae (rose)

**Rarity Ranks:** G5/S1

**State Legal Status:** Threatened

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** FACW+

**Description:** Perennial **herb** up to 6 feet (2 meters) tall with 1 - several erect branches near the top of the plant. **Leaves** up to 2½ feet (80 cm) long near the base of the plant, becoming shorter upward, with a small leafy bract at the base; each leaf divided into 7 - 17 evenly toothed, oblong leaflets with rounded bases. **Flowers** in long-stalked, densely flowered spikes up to 6 inches long; each flower with 4 white sepals, no petals, and 4 long, showy stamens that give the **flower spike** a shaggy appearance. **Fruits** small, dry, single-seeded, tightly packed into a cone-like structure up to 6 inches (15 cm) long.

**Similar Species:** Black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*) has tall, white-flowered spikes but its leaves are divided into many, coarsely toothed leaflets; it flowers in early summer and usually does not grow in wetlands.

**Related Rare Species:** None in Georgia.

**Habitat:** Wet meadows with basic soils, mountain bogs, seepy streamside thickets, seeps over ultramafic rock.

**Life History:** Canada burnet is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually. Individual flowers of Canada burnet lack petals and are inconspicuous, but the densely flowered spikes are showy and attract a variety of insect pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, which extract nectar from the flowers.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (August–October) and fruiting (October–November).

**Range:** Georgia, north to Labrador and west to Alaska.

**Threats:** Logging and clearing in wetlands and streamside zones.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** Only 2 populations are known, both on national forest land.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Avoid mechanical clearing and logging along mountain streams and in mountain wetlands. Use fire or hand-clearing to create sunny openings and wet meadows.

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L.Chafin, Aug. 2008: original account

D.Weiler, Feb. 2010: added pictures





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