

hoary puccoon *Lithospermum canescens*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Lamiales

Family: Boraginaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Hoary puccoon is also known as Indian paint. This perennial plant grows from a thick root that contains red sap. Its hairy stems are upright and often branched. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. These sessile, simple leaves are oblong, without teeth, hairy and about one and one-half inches long and less than one-half inch wide. Flowers are borne in dense, flat or curled-over clusters at the stem tip. A flower may be as much as one-half inch wide. The five, yellow or orange petals are united at the base into a tube. The fruit is a cluster of four, white, shiny, smooth nutlets. Hoary puccoon may attain a height of one to two feet.

BEHAVIORS

Hoary puccoon may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in dry woods and moist to dry prairies. Flowers are produced from April through June. The presence of this plant is an indicator of a prairie in good condition.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie

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