

wild petunia *Ruellia humilis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Scrophulariales

Family: Acanthaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

Wild petunia is also known as hairy petunia. This perennial herb has leaves in an opposite arrangement on the stem. The hairy leaves are oval-shaped, sessile and about two and three-fourths inches long. Flowers develop in clusters or singly in the leaf axils. The five petals are fused to make a tubelike flower. Each purple or blue flower may be as much as two inches long. Wild petunia may attain a height of two to two and one-half feet.

BEHAVIORS

Wild petunia may be found statewide in Illinois. It grows in prairies, dry woods and on bluffs. Flowers are produced from May through October.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; hill prairie

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