

# Response Statement - Four-leaved Milkweed

*December 2, 2010*

**Common Name:** Four-leaved Milkweed

**Scientific Name:** *Asclepias quadrifolia*

**Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):** Endangered

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The Minister of the Environment will forward the COSEWIC assessment of the Four-leaved Milkweed to the Governor in Council within three months. The Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Four-leaved Milkweed should be added to the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) under the *Species at Risk Act* as Endangered .

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

**Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC:** Only two small extant populations are known in Canada at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, each with very low numbers of individuals. Historic populations within the Niagara Falls region are believed extirpated. Extant populations are in very rare limestone deciduous woodland communities where plants are at risk from shading by invasive Common Buckthorn shrubs and from native shrubs and trees expanding in the absence of ground fires. Residential development is a potential threat at the largest site. Future development on this site remains a reasonable possibility.

**Occurrence:** Ontario

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

**Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:**

Ontario