

closed gentian

Gentiana andrewsii

Kingdom: Plantae
Phylum: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Gentianales
Family: Gentianaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native



© Kenneth Robertson

stems with flowers

FEATURES

Closed gentian is a perennial herb. Its sessile leaves are oval to lance-shaped with a point at the tip. The simple, entire leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem. The flowers have deep-blue to violet petals that remain closed or nearly closed. The petals are connected by a white membrane that sticks out slightly beyond their tips. Flowers are arranged either in a cluster at the stem tip or in the upper leaf axils. The fruit is a capsule that contains seeds. Closed gentian may grow to a height of one to two feet.

BEHAVIORS

Closed gentian may be found statewide, although it is more commonly seen in the northern one-half of Illinois than in the southern one-half. It grows in moist woods and wet prairies. Flowers are produced from August through October.

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge