

closed gentian *Gentiana andrewsii*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Gentianales

Family: Gentianaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

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.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge

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