

Criteria for State, Physiographic Province, Global, Federal, and North Atlantic Region Status Ranks

2024

Status ranks are based on a system used by Nature Serve, a non-profit conservation organization that is a leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Status ranks are a measure of the relative rarity of a species, and **State Status** ranks reflect the rarity of a species in Delaware. The state **Physiographic Province Status** rank reflects the rarity of a species within a given Province in Delaware (Piedmont or Coastal Plain). The **Global Status** rank reflects the rarity of a species worldwide, and the **Federal Status** rank refers to species listed as either Endangered or Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The **North Atlantic Region Status** reflects the rarity of a species with the North Atlantic Region [New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island), 12 U.S. states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia), and the District of Columbia]. Status ranks are used to prioritize conservation and protection efforts so the rarest of species receives immediate attention. The primary criterion for ranking a species is based on the total number of documented occurrences or populations, with strong consideration given to the quality of the occurrence (i.e., size and vigor of a population and condition of habitat), as well as threats to the occurrence and its habitat. Status ranks for individual species are frequently updated and are based on current knowledge.

STATE STATUS

Rare (S1S2): of conservation concern; typically, 5 to 20 known occurrences or populations in the state; or only a few remaining individuals; may be vulnerable to extirpation.

Uncommon (S3): not of conservation concern at this time; typically, 21 to 50 known occurrences or populations; Uncommon species are not yet susceptible to becoming extirpated in the state but may be if additional populations are destroyed.

Common (S4S5): apparently secure under present conditions; typically, 51 or more known occurrences or populations, but may be fewer with many large populations; usually not susceptible to immediate threats.

Status Uncertain (SU): species that are thought to be rare or uncommon in the state, but cannot presently be included within another classification, due to: questionable identification; taxonomic status is uncertain; species may be reported falsely from Delaware; nativity of the species is questionable; or more field work and herbaria studies are needed to better understand the current distribution and abundance of the species in the state.

Historical (SH): Historically known from the state but not verified for an extended period (usually 20 years), but there are expectations that the species may be rediscovered.

Extirpated (SX): Species has been determined or presumed to be extirpated. All historical occurrences have been searched, or all known sites have been destroyed, and a thorough search of potential habitat has been completed.

Non-indigenous: A species native to North America, but not to Delaware that is now found growing in Delaware outside of its natural range. Non-indigenous species are not considered to be part of Delaware's native flora. These species usually arrive due to the human-caused breakdown of natural barriers to dispersal, or have been introduced, or intentionally planted in Delaware and are now escaping to natural areas and are surviving without cultivation (i.e., naturalized).

Non-native or exotic: A species that is not native to North America (north of Mexico). Non-native species or exotic species are thought to have been introduced by humans, primarily through agricultural or horticultural

practices. These species have become established in Delaware and are reproducing without cultivation (i.e., naturalized).

GLOBAL STATUS

Rare (G1G2): Imperiled globally because of rarity (5 to 20 occurrences), or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

Uncommon (G3): Either very rare or local throughout its range (21 to 100 occurrences) or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g., a physiographic region), or because of some other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

GH: Possibly Extinct - known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery.

T#: The rank of a subspecies or variety. For example, T1 would apply to a variety or subspecies of a species, with a rank of G1.

FEDERAL STATUS

Endangered (LE): A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened (LT): A species that is likely to become endangered sometime in the future.

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION STATUS

R1: Critically Imperiled - at very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity, very steep declines, or other factors.

R2: Imperiled - at high risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations, steep declines, or other factors.

R3: Vulnerable - at moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a restricted range, relatively few populations, recent and widespread declines, or other factors.

RH: Possibly Extinct - known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery.

RX: Presumed Extinct - species not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.