

Vermont Natural Heritage Inventory
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
Explanation of Legal Status and Information Ranks

State Rank and Global Rank - Value that best characterizes the rarity (abundance) or endangerment of a native taxon within Vermont's geographic boundary or throughout its range, respectively. Ranks are as follows:

1 - Very rare (Critically imperiled): At very high risk of extinction or extirpation due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations or occurrences), very steep declines, or other factors

2 - Rare (Imperiled): At high risk of extinction or extirpation due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors

3 - Uncommon (Vulnerable): At moderate risk of extinction or extirpation due to restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors

4 - Common to uncommon (Apparently secure): locally common or widely scattered to uncommon, but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors; or stable over many decades and not threatened but of restricted distribution or other factors

5 - Common (Secure): widespread and abundant

H - Possibly extinct/extirpated: Missing; known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery

X - Presumed extinct/extirpated: Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery

U = Unrankable: Currently unrankable due to lack of information or substantially conflicting information about status or trends

NR = Not ranked: Not yet assessed

NA = Not applicable. Element is not a suitable target for conservation for one of the following reasons: Hybrid, Exotic Origin, Accidental/Nonregular, Not Confidently Present, No Definable Occurrences

The following may follow a numeric rank to provide further information:

? - indicates uncertainty about the rank, uncertainty may also be expressed in the form of a range rank (e.g. S1S3)

B - Indicates the preceding rank is for breeding populations

N - Indicates the preceding rank is for nonbreeding populations

M - Indicates the preceding rank is for migratory populations

T - For global ranks only, indicates an infraspecies.

Q - For global ranks only, indicates questionable taxonomy.

State Status - Legal protection under Vermont Endangered Species Law (10 V.S.A. Chap. 123)

E = Endangered: in immediate danger of becoming extirpated in the state

T = Threatened: with high possibility of becoming endangered in the near future

or informational category only- not established by law:

RE = Recommended by the Endangered Species Committee (ESC) for Endangered status; pending Agency of Natural Resources Secretary (Secretary) approval and rulemaking

RT = Recommended by the ESC for Threatened status

RDL = Recommended by ESC for Delisting

PE = Proposed by Secretary for Endangered status; pending rulemaking

PT = Proposed by Secretary for Threatened status; pending rulemaking

PDL = Proposed by Secretary for Delisting; pending rulemaking

Federal Status - Legal protection under the federal Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

PDL = Proposed for Delisting

C = Candidate for Listing (not legally protected)

Other Statuses – Information categories only; does not imply legal protection.

Flora Conservanda- globally or regionally rare vascular plants designated by New England Plant Conservation Program. See report for more information:

<https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/conservation/conservation-research-plans/>

NALCC Rank – regional rank for vascular plants designated by North Atlantic LCC.

See report for more information. <https://lcnetwork.org/resource/prioritization-and-conservation-status-rare-plants-north-atlantic-final-report>

Regional Concern (RSGCN)- regionally-rare animals designated by Northeast Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee

RFSS- Regional Forester Sensitive Species, Green Mountain National Forest, US Forest Service

SC- Special Concern species, Scientific Advisory Groups to the Vermont Endangered Species Committee

SGCN - Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Vermont Wildlife Action Plan