

EXPLANATION OF INFORMATION provided in the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program List of Rare Plant Species of North Carolina

The **North Carolina Natural Heritage Program List of Rare Plant Species of North Carolina** is available as a document and a spreadsheet.

TAXONOMY

Taxonomic Group – Each taxon is categorized into one of five major groups: Vascular Plant, Moss, Liverwort, Hornwort, and Lichen.

Scientific Name – The binomial or trinomial taxon name is provided. Scientific authorities for names have been omitted to save space. Scientific names are standardized to follow the taxon concepts and nomenclature used by the following standard references:

Vascular Plants (dicots, monocots, gymnosperms, ferns, and fern allies): Weakley, A.S. Flora of the Southeastern United States, 2024 Edition. University of North Carolina Herbarium (NCU), North Carolina Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (available online at <https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/unc-herbarium/floras/>)

Lichens: Perlmutter, G. and T. Howard. 2024. Lichens of North Carolina [Internet]. Raleigh (NC): North Carolina Biodiversity Project and North Carolina State Parks. Available from <https://auth1.dpr.ncparks.gov/lichen/index.php>.

Bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, hornworts): Amoroso, J.L., B. Aguerro, D. DuMond, and T. Howard. 2024. The Bryophytes of North Carolina [Internet]. Raleigh (NC): North Carolina Biodiversity Project and North Carolina State Parks. Available from <https://auth1.dpr.ncparks.gov/bryophytes/index.php>.

Common Name: Common names are not standardized and do not follow a particular concept or flora.

STATUS AND RANK

Please see the [Status and Rank Definitions for Plants](#) document for information about Status and Rank.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Habitat Comment – The physiographic provinces or geographical region in which each taxon is known to occur is indicated using the symbology described below, followed by known habitat. This information should not be regarded as the only province(s) or regions(s) of the state in which the species could occur; our knowledge of the flora of North Carolina is still very imperfect.

M-Mountains: All parts of North Carolina west of the foot of the Blue Ridge Escarpment.

P-Piedmont: All parts of North Carolina east of the foot of the Blue Ridge Escarpment and west of the Fall Line, including outlying “foothill” ranges, such as the Brushy,

Uwharrie, Sauratown, and South mountains. This province is shallowly underlain by crystalline metamorphic, igneous, or (rarely) consolidated sedimentary rocks

S-Sandhills: Portions of Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, and Montgomery counties consisting mostly of deep aeolian sands of the Middendorf and Pinehurst formations (Cretaceous to Tertiary age). The Sandhills are really part of the coastal plain but are here distinguished because of their distinctive geomorphology and vegetation. Areas somewhat resembling the Sandhills region but occurring in other parts of the state (such as Carolina bay rims and aeolian or beach ridge deposits in the outer Coastal Plain) are considered part of the Coastal Plain Province.

C-Coastal Plain: All parts of North Carolina east of the Fall Line but excluding the Sandhills region and Tidewater. Generally consisting of unconsolidated sands, silts, clays, and peats, though rarely shallowly underlain by consolidated coquina limestone ("marl").

T-Tidewater: Areas associated with tidal water, such as the ocean and barrier islands, sounds, estuaries, and mainland brackish or salt marshes.

County - A listing of the known counties of occurrence is provided for each taxon in the NCNHP inventory. County names are followed by symbols (defined below). The counties listed reflect data currently in the NCNHP database.

* All recorded occurrences in the county are either extirpated, have not been found in recent surveys, or have not been surveyed recently enough to be confident they are still present. Occurrences are regarded as historical after they have not been surveyed for 20-40 years (the number of years depending on the species and the amount of habitat alteration in the area). An asterisk should not be regarded as a definitive statement that the species is gone from the county but indicates that its continued existence is uncertain.

+ Counties with obscure or undatable records

? There is some question as to the validity of the county report.

The botanical exploration of North Carolina is far from complete, and many additional county records will be found, generally (but not always) in proximity to counties listed. Most species that do not have county of occurrence information are new to the Rare List and county status information had not been compiled at the time of publication. Visit the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program [Species/Community Search](#) page for the most up-to-date county occurrence information.

We request information about any new occurrences in the state. If you would like to provide data and information to contribute to our database and broaden our understanding of the rare flora of North Carolina, please complete a [NCNHP Plant Survey Form](#).