



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Name: _____

Tel. #/email: _____

Please note, for report to be accepted into NHESP database, all required fields including signature field on page 3 must be completed

IN MAKING THIS OBSERVATION FORM AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC, THE NHESP DOES NOT AUTHORIZE OR CONDONE ENTRY ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE OWNER'S KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSION. THE UNLAWFUL TRESPASS ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY MAY SUBJECT A TRESPASSER TO THE CRIMINAL OR CIVIL SANCTIONS AVAILABLE UNDER THE LAW. FOR THESE REASONS, THE NHESP STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE PERMISSION OF THE LANDOWNER BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO ENTERING PRIVATE PROPERTY TO COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THIS FORM. IT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PERSON COLLECTING INFORMATION FOR THIS FORM TO ENSURE THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES COMPLY WITH THE LAW.

NHESP PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

***Required Fields** (additional information may be requested during NHESP review of observation report)

Survey Information

***SPECIES NAME** (scientific preferred): _____ **EO#, if known:** _____

***Date(s) of observation(s):** _____ ***Population Found (Y / N)?**

Amount of area surveyed/time spent surveying area: _____

Species Identification

***Photographs or slides taken (Y / N)?** If yes, please submit a clear photo/slide/or electronic digital image of the plant showing diagnostic features. On image, please indicate your name, the date, location, and species.

***Was a specimen collected and curated for deposition in a biological research collection (Y / N)? If yes, please**

indicate the repository: _____ **Collection # (optional):** _____

***Are you confident of this species ID (Y / N)?** If No, please explain: _____

***Description of the diagnostic characteristics upon which the ID was based** (including how distinguished from congeners or look-alikes): _____

Reference used: _____

Location Information

***Town:** _____ **County:** _____ **Waterbody or site name:** _____

***Describe how to get to the area surveyed and the rare plant population** (if found) using permanent landmarks and cardinal directions. Please include potential accessibility obstacles or dangers (e.g., river crossing, tides). If you would like to provide a sketch, please do so on the last page: _____

***Please attach a copy of the appropriate section of a USGS topo map, aerial photograph, or similar map** (i.e. Google Earth map, GIS map, etc.), **and carefully mark the specific site(s) of the rare plant population (if found) and the total area surveyed.**

Please submit field forms, appropriate maps with specific location clearly marked, and all supporting documentation to:
Data Manager, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Rt. 135, Westborough, MA 01581

Site Coordinates (if available): *System* used (circle one): UTM Lat-Long Mass. State Plane Datum: _____

Source of coordinates (circle one): GPS Google Earth other GIS system (please specify _____)

Coordinates at original observation location If GPS, accuracy of GPS unit at the time the coordinates were taken:

Obs #1: _____

Obs #2: _____

Obs #3: _____

Population Information

Did your survey encompass the entire population extent, if known (please circle one)? Yes No Uncertain

Approximate area occupied by the population (circle appropriate unit): _____ meters² hectares feet² acres

***Population Size:**

Total number of "genets" (i.e., genetically distinct, or clearly separate individuals): _____ (Precise count *or* estimate?)
and/or

Total number of "ramets" (i.e., stems or shoots arising from clones): _____ (Precise count *or* estimate?)

***Population Structure** (please indicate the # or % in each age class and condition if known, or just check all that apply):

Age Classes Present

____ Seedlings

____ Immature plants

____ Mature plants

____ Plants of unknown age

Reproductive Condition of the Population on this Date

____ Vegetative

____ In bud

____ In flower

____ Immature fruit

____ Mature fruit

____ Seed dispersing

____ Senescent

____ Dormant

How would you characterize the vigor of this population (please circle one)? Excellent Good Fair Poor

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years (Y / N)? If yes, please give details: _____

Site Information

Describe the habitat, including the natural community and associated species: _____

Circle Appropriate Habitat Descriptors:

Landform/Topography

summit/crest

upper slope

mid slope

lower slope

rolling terrain/plain

floodplain/terrace

wetland

shore/lake/stream

Aspect (_____ °)

N NE

E SE

S SW

W NW

flat/variable

Slope (_____ %)

flat

gentle

average

steep

very steep

abrupt

Light

open

filtered

shade

Soil Moisture Regime

xeric

dry

mesic

wet

inundated

Elevation: _____ (ft or m?) **Soil Type(s):** _____

Surficial Geology: _____ **Bedrock Geology:** _____

List invasive species present and describe their perceived threat level (low, medium, high): _____

Please describe other observed threats to the population at this site (e.g. disease, predation, disruptive land uses):

Landowner's name and address, if known: _____

Managed Area Name (if applicable): _____

Contact Person name & tel#/email (if known): _____

Owner Comments: _____

What are your recommendations for future inventory, monitoring, research, and/or management? _____

What are your protection recommendations? _____

Additional comments: _____

Observer Information and Certification

*Observed at original location by (please sign below): _____

*Observer's Permanent Address: _____

*Email Address (if available): _____ *Telephone: _____

Affiliations/Qualifications: _____

*List names of other observers (and qualifications): _____

I hereby certify under pains and penalties of perjury that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

*Signature: _____ *Date: _____

(The person who observed the species must sign here)

Additional Data Submission Information

If the organism's species identification was made by someone other than the observer listed above, please provide contact information for person who identified the organism:

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Affiliations/Qualifications: _____

If form filled out by someone other than the observer listed above, please provide contact information:

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Affiliations/Qualifications: _____

IS THIS OBSERVATION ASSOCIATED WITH A NHESP REVIEW FILE? Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know ___

If "Yes" please list NHESP file/tracking #: _____

IS THIS OBSERVATION ASSOCIATED WITH A COLLECTION PERMIT? Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know ___

If "Yes" please list Collection Permit #: _____

Thank you for contributing to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program database.
Your efforts are valuable and appreciated.

Please submit field forms, appropriate maps with specific location clearly marked, and all supporting documentation to:
Data Manager, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Rt. 135, Westborough, MA 01581