



MASSWILDLIFE

MASSACHUSETTS PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

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Observation Details

* **Species Name** (scientific preferred): _____ * **Species/Target Found (Y / N)?**

* **Town(s):** _____ **Site Name:** _____

* **Directions to the observation location** (if found) using permanent landmarks and cardinal directions. Please include potential accessibility obstacles or dangers (e.g., river crossing, tides). _____

* **Date(s) of observation** (exact or date range): _____

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

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

* **Was a specimen collected for deposition in a biological research collection (Y / N)?** * **If yes, please indicate the repository:** _____ **Collection # (optional):** _____

* **Population Size:**

* Are you reporting 'genets' (i.e., genetically distinct, or clearly separate individuals) or 'ramets'? (**Genets / Ramets**)

* **Number Observed** [Precise count]: _____ **OR** [Estimate] **minimum #:** _____ **maximum #:** _____

* **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

_____ Vegetative
_____ In bud
_____ In flower
_____ Immature fruit
_____ Mature fruit
_____ Seed dispersing
_____ Senescent
_____ Dormant

* **Required Fields:** For this report to be accepted into MassWildlife's database, all required fields, including signature field, must be completed. MassWildlife may request additional information following report submission. Please submit field forms, maps with specific location clearly marked, and all supporting documentation to: NHESP Data Management, MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Location Information

***Please attach a copy of the appropriate section of a USGS topo map, aerial photograph, or similar map (e.g., Google Earth map, GIS map, etc.), and carefully mark the specific site where you observed this rare species.**

Site Coordinates (if available): *Coord. projection* (circle one): (UTM / Lat-Long / Mass. State Plane / Other _____)

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

Coordinates at original observation location

If reporting >1 one location, please indicate count per site:

Obs #1: _____

Obs #2: _____

Obs #3: _____

Population Information

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

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

How would you characterize the vigor of this population (please circle max 2)? (Excellent / Good / Fair / Poor)

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

If applicable, include any available unique ID to an external tracking system/database: _____

Reference used (e.g., field guide): _____ **I have experience identifying this species:** (Y / N)

Was the organism's species identification made by someone other than the observer? (Y / N) If yes, please provide their name and contact info: _____

Site Information

Describe the habitat at this location (if possible, include dominant vegetation, patch size, local land use, alterations to ecological processes (e.g., damming, logging.)): _____

Associated species at this location: _____

Soil Type(s): _____

Surficial Geology: _____

Bedrock Geology: _____

Habitat Descriptors (circle all that apply):

<u>Landform/Topography</u>	<u>Aspect</u> (_____ °)	<u>Slope</u> (_____ %)	<u>Soil Moisture Regime</u>	<u>Water Clarity</u>
summit/crest	N NE	flat	xeric	clear
upper slope	E SE	gentle	dry	turbid
mid slope	S SW	average	mesic	milky
lower slope	W NW	steep	wet	tea/tannic
rolling terrain/plain	flat/variable	very steep	inundated	green
floodplain/terrace		abrupt		foamy
wetland				other
shore/lake/stream	<u>Light</u>	<u>Elevation</u> (_____)	<u>Water Depth</u> (_____)	
	open	feet	inches	
	filtered	meters	feet	
	shade		meters	

Deer Browse Influence (select one): (high / medium / low / none)

Hydrologic Influence (select one): (high / medium / low / none)

Describe the invasive species present at this site and indicate their perceived threat level (select one):

(high / medium / low / none) _____

Describe other observed threats to the population at this site (e.g., disease, predation, disruptive land uses) and indicate their perceived threat level (select one): (high / medium / low / none) _____

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

What are your protection recommendations? _____

EO#, if known: _____ **EO ID, if known:** _____

Landowner's name and address, if known: _____

Other Observers: _____

Amount time spent surveying (person hours): _____

Additional comments: _____

Additional Data Submission Information

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

Is this observation associated with a NHESP Review File? (Yes / No / Unknown)

If Yes, please list NHESP file/tracking #, if known: _____

Is this observation associated with a NHESP Review File? (Yes / No / Unknown)

If Yes, please list Collection permit #, if known: _____

Observer Information and Certification

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

Observer's Address: _____

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

Affiliations/Qualifications: _____

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

***Observer Signature:** _____ ***Date:** _____



Thank you for contributing to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program database. Your efforts are valuable and appreciated. For more ways you can support the over 400 rare plants and animals of Massachusetts, please visit mass.gov/supportNHESP