

## Conservation Status Ranks

**State and Global Ranks:** This ranking system facilitates a quick assessment of a species' or habitat type's rarity and is the primary tool used to develop conservation, protection, and restoration priorities for individual species and natural habitat types. Each species or habitat is assigned both a state (S) and global (G) rank on a scale of critically imperiled (1) to secure (5). Factors such as range extent, the number of occurrences, intensity of threats, etc., contribute to the assignment of state and global ranks. The definitions for state and global ranks are comparable but applied at different geographic scales; something that is state imperiled may be globally secure.

The information supporting these ranks is developed and maintained by the Maine Natural Areas Program (state ranks) and NatureServe (global ranks).

Rank	Definition
<b>S1</b> <b>G1</b>	<b>Critically Imperiled</b> – At very high risk of extinction or elimination due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors.
<b>S2</b> <b>G2</b>	<b>Imperiled</b> – At high risk of extinction or elimination due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
<b>S3</b> <b>G3</b>	<b>Vulnerable</b> – At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors.
<b>S4</b> <b>G4</b>	<b>Apparently Secure</b> – At fairly low risk of extinction or elimination due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences, but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.
<b>S5</b> <b>G5</b>	<b>Secure</b> – At very low risk of extinction or elimination due to a very extensive range, abundant populations or occurrences, and little to no concern from declines or threats.
<b>SX</b> <b>GX</b>	<b>Presumed Extinct</b> – Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.
<b>SH</b> <b>GH</b>	<b>Possibly Extinct</b> – Known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery.
<b>S#S#</b> <b>G#G#</b>	<b>Range Rank</b> – A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3 or S1S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or ecosystem.
<b>SU</b> <b>GU</b>	<b>Unrankable</b> – Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
<b>GNR</b> <b>SNR</b>	<b>Unranked</b> – Global or subnational conservation status not yet assessed.
<b>SNA</b> <b>GNA</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b> – A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species or ecosystem is not a suitable target for conservation activities (e.g., non-native species or ecosystems).
<b>Qualifier</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>S#?</b> <b>G#?</b>	<b>Inexact Numeric Rank</b> – Denotes inexact numeric rank.
<b>Q</b>	<b>Questionable taxonomy that may reduce conservation priority</b> – Distinctiveness of this entity as a taxon or ecosystem type at the current level is questionable. The “Q” modifier is only used at a global level.
<b>T#</b>	<b>Infraspecific Taxon (trinomial)</b> – The status of infraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) are indicated by a "T-rank" following the species' global rank.

**State Status:** Endangered and Threatened are legal status designations authorized by statute. Please refer to MRSA Title 12, §544 and §544-B.

Status	Definition
<b>E</b>	<b>Endangered</b> – Any native plant species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the State or Federally listed as Endangered.
<b>T</b>	<b>Threatened</b> – Any native plant species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in the State or Federally listed as Threatened.
<b>SC</b>	<b>Special Concern</b> – A native plant species that is rare in the State, but not rare enough to be considered Threatened or Endangered.
<b>PE</b>	<b>Potentially Extirpated</b> – A native plant species that has not been documented in the State in over 20 years, or loss of the last known occurrence.

**Element Occurrence (EO) Ranks:** Quality assessments that designate viability of a population or integrity of habitat. These ranks are based on size, condition, and landscape context. Range ranks (e.g., AB, BC) and uncertainty ranks (e.g., B?) are allowed. The Maine Natural Areas Program tracks all occurrences of rare plants and natural communities/ecosystems (S1-S3) as well as exemplary common natural community types (S4-S5 with EO ranks A/B).

Rank	Definition
<b>A</b>	<b>Excellent</b> – Excellent estimated viability/ecological integrity.
<b>B</b>	<b>Good</b> – Good estimated viability/ecological integrity.
<b>C</b>	<b>Fair</b> – Fair estimated viability/ecological integrity.
<b>D</b>	<b>Poor</b> – Poor estimated viability/ecological integrity.
<b>E</b>	<b>Extant</b> – Verified extant, but viability/ecological integrity not assessed.
<b>H</b>	<b>Historical</b> – Lack of field information within past 20 years verifying continued existence of the occurrence, but not enough to document extirpation.
<b>X</b>	<b>Extirpated</b> – Documented loss of population/destruction of habitat.
<b>U</b>	<b>Unrankable</b> – Occurrence unable to be ranked due to lack of sufficient information (e.g., possible mistaken identification).
<b>NR</b>	<b>Not Ranked</b> – An occurrence rank has not been assigned.

Visit the Maine Natural Areas Program website for more information  
<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap>

