



Please submit field forms, a copy of a USGS map, and all supporting documentation to:

**Data Manager**  
**Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program**  
**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**  
**Route 135, Westborough MA 01581**  
**(508) 792-7270 Ext. 200**

### RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

**SPECIES SCIENTIFIC NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Element Occurrence No., if known:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observation Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Today's Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Population Found?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Observed By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Observers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer's Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph Taken? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (if yes, please attach, and label back with your name, date taken, and the location)

Specimen Collected? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Collection # \_\_\_\_\_ Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Name (informal):** \_\_\_\_\_ **USGS Topo Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Town:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** to the rare plant population (if found), or search area (if not found). **Mark the location on a copy of the USGS topo map.**

**GPS Coordinates:** System used (circle one): UTM Lat-Long Mass. State Plane Datum: \_\_\_\_\_

At, or near, the center of the population: \_\_\_\_\_

or:

Least-rectangle (i.e., the coordinates delimiting the north, east, south, and west corners of the population):

North \_\_\_\_\_ East \_\_\_\_\_ South \_\_\_\_\_ West \_\_\_\_\_

**Has the full extent of the population been determined?** (check one) \_\_\_ yes; \_\_\_ no; \_\_\_ uncertain whether full extent is known

**Identification Problems?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ **Explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnostic Characters used:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Reference used:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do other members of the genus or look-alike plants occur at this site?** Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Population Data

**Approximate Area Occupied by the Population** (circle appropriate unit): \_\_\_\_\_ sq. meters hectares sq. feet sq. yards 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" (e.g., stems or shoots arising from clones): \_\_\_\_\_ (Precise count or estimate?)

**Population Structure** (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 leaf)

\_\_\_ In bud

\_\_\_ In flower

\_\_\_ Immature fruit

\_\_\_ Mature fruit

\_\_\_ Seed dispersing

\_\_\_ Senescent

\_\_\_ Dormant

**How would you characterize the vigor of this population?** Excellent Good Fair Poor

**Evidence of Disease, Predation, or Injury?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pollinators:** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years? If yes, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Setting

Describe the plant community and list the associated species: \_\_\_\_\_

List any exotic plant species present, and discuss their possible impacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe evidence of natural or human-caused disturbance (including changes in ecological processes) and effects on population: \_\_\_\_\_

Surrounding Land Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_ ft. or m? Soil Type(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Surficial Geology: \_\_\_\_\_ Bedrock Geology: \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Appropriate Habitat Descriptors:**

<u>Landform/Topography</u>	<u>Aspect</u> ___°	<u>Slope</u> ___%	<u>Light</u>	<u>Soil Moisture Regime</u>	<u>Important Ecological Processes</u>
summit/crest	N NE	flat	open	xeric	seasonal or regular flooding
upper slope	E SE	gentle	filtered	dry	groundwater seepage
mid slope	S SW	average	shade	mesic	colluvial processes
lower slope	W NW	rather steep		wet	alluvial processes
rolling terrain/plain	flat/variable	steep		inundated	wind/salt spray
flood plain/terrace		very steep			erosion
wetland		abrupt			fire
shore/pond/lake/stream					none apparent

Describe Microhabitat Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation Information

Land Owned/Managed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Managed Area Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional factors might potentially threaten the population (e.g. land clearing, development project)? If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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

What are your protection recommendations? \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:**

**Certification**

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

*MA EO Rank Comments:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Global EO Rank:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Global EO Rank Comments:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Sketch:**

Use this space to draw or diagram useful information about the rare plant occurrence, such as its location relative to landmarks and habitat features. Consider depicting, for instance, a vertical cross section of a population's position on a ledge or slope, or how a population is distributed in clumped patches in the habitat relative to boulders, stone walls, brooks, trees, etc.

**Please:**

**Don't forget to attach a copy of a USGS topo map indicating the location of the rare plants or the search area!  
Mark the location of the rare plants as precisely as possible, and label with the map source, date and species name.**

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