

Appendix D: New York's Forest and Woodland Community Types

Community types and species are assigned conservation status ranks reflecting their degree of rarity or imperilment, see *Tables 1 and 2 below*.

Forests ranked S1 through S3 are considered rare in New York, with those ranked S1 being the rarest and/or the most vulnerable to various stressors.

Table 1. Forest and woodland community types described in Edinger 2014 and documented in the New York Natural Heritage Program Databases. For S1 to S3 community types, all known examples are documented; for S4 and S5 community types only the highest quality examples in the state are documented.

Forest Community Type	Rarity	Number of Locations Documented by New York Natural Heritage Program
Coastal oak-holly forest	S1	1
Coastal plain Atlantic white cedar swamp	S1	4
Inland Atlantic white cedar swamp	S1	6
Maritime beech forest	S1	3
Maritime holly forest	S1	1
Maritime pitch pine dune woodland	S1	4
Maritime red cedar forest	S1	2
Pitch pine-blueberry peat swamp	S1	2
Red maple-sweetgum swamp	S1	7
Perched swamp white oak swamp	S1S2	5
Allegheny oak forest	S2	9
Alvar woodland	S2	6
Mountain fir forest	S2	14
Red maple-blackgum swamp	S2	12
Red maple-swamp white oak swamp	S2	3
Calcareous pavement woodland	S2S3	3
Floodplain forest	S2S3	53
Limestone woodland	S2S3	26
Maritime oak forest	S2S3	5
Mountain spruce-fir forest	S2S3	13
Northern white cedar swamp	S2S3	52
Oak-tulip tree forest	S2S3	13
Pitch pine-oak-heath woodland	S2S3	9
Red maple-tamarack peat swamp	S2S3	22

Table 1 (*continued*). Forest and woodland community types described in Edinger 2014 and documented in the New York Natural Heritage Program Databases. For S1 to S3 community types, all known examples are documented; for S4 and S5 community types only the highest quality examples in the state are documented.

Forest Community Type	Rarity	Number of Locations Documented by New York Natural Heritage Program
Rich hemlock-hardwood peat swamp	S2S3	21
Rich mesophytic forest	S2S3	10
Acidic talus slope woodland	S3	11
Black spruce-tamarack bog	S3	47
Calcareous talus slope woodland	S3	22
Coastal oak-beech forest	S3	6
Coastal oak-heath forest	S3	7
Coastal oak-hickory forest	S3	8
Coastal oak-laurel forest	S3	3
Maple-basswood rich mesic forest	S3	31
Shale talus slope woodland	S3	5
Silver maple-ash swamp	S3	38
Spruce-fir swamp	S3	31
Balsam flats	S3S4	4
Spruce-northern hardwood forest	S3S4	13
Appalachian oak-hickory forest	S4	28
Appalachian oak-pine forest	S4	9
Beech-maple mesic forest	S4	26
Chestnut oak forest	S4	22
Hemlock-hardwood swamp	S4	22
Hemlock-northern hardwood forest	S4	62
Pine-northern hardwood forest	S4	7
Pitch pine-oak forest	S4	12
Spruce flats	S4	6
Red maple-hardwood swamp	S4S5	22

Table 2. Categories of Rarity or Imperilment. These categories are used by Natural Heritage Programs in the United States and Canada to track the status of species in each jurisdiction (S1-S5, SX, SH) and by the international nonprofit organization NatureServe to track the status of species globally (G1-G5, GX, GH).

Heritage Rank	
G1, S1	Critically Imperiled —Critically imperiled globally or in the state/province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extinction or extirpation from the state/province.
G2, S2	Imperiled —Imperiled globally or in the state/province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation from the state/province.
G3, S3	Vulnerable —Vulnerable globally or in the state/province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
G4, S4	Apparently Secure —Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
G5, S5	Secure —Common, widespread, and abundant globally or in the state/province.
GX, SX	Presumed Extinct or Extirpated —Species is believed to be extinct in the wild (GX) or extirpated from the state/province (SX). Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
GH, SH	Possibly Extinct or Extirpated (Historical) —Species or community occurred historically in the state/province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40-year delay if the only known occurrences in the state/province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. The SH rank is reserved for species for which some effort has been made to relocate occurrences, rather than simply using this status for all elements not known from verified extant occurrences.



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