

## Explanation of State, Physiographic Province, Global and Federal Status Ranks

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Status ranks are based on a system used by Nature Serve, a non-profit conservation organization that is a leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Status ranks are a measure of the relative rarity of a species. Each species listed is given a Status rank. The **State Status** rank reflects the rarity within Delaware overall, the **Physiographic Province Status** rank reflects the rarity of a species within a given Province (Piedmont or Coastal Plain), the **Global Status** rank reflects the rarity of a species worldwide, and the **Federal Status** rank refers to species listed as either Endangered (LE), Threatened (LT), or Candidate (C) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Status ranks are used to prioritize conservation and protection efforts so the rarest of species receives immediate attention. The primary criteria for ranking a species is based on the total number of documented occurrences or populations, with consideration given to the quality of the occurrence (i.e., size and vigor of a population and condition of habitat), and threats to the occurrence. Status ranks for individual species are frequently updated and are based on current knowledge.

#### STATE STATUS RANK

S1: **Rare** and of conservation concern; typically 5 or fewer extant occurrences or populations in the state; or only a few remaining individuals; may be especially vulnerable to extirpation.

S1.1: To date, only a **single extant occurrence or population** of this species is known to exist in the state.

S2: **Rare** and of conservation concern; typically between 6 and 20 known occurrences or populations; may be susceptible to becoming extirpated.

SH: **Historically** known from the state but not verified for an extended period (usually 20 years), but there are expectations that the species may be rediscovered.

SX: Species has been determined or presumed to be **extirpated**. All historical occurrences have been searched, or all known sites have been destroyed, and a thorough search of potential habitat has been completed.

#### GLOBAL STATUS RANK

G1: Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences), or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2: Imperiled globally because of rarity (6-20 occurrences), or because of some other factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

G3: Either very rare or local throughout its range (21 to 100 occurrences), or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g. a physiographic region), or because of some other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

Q: If a taxon is treated as a full species, a qualifying "Q" is added after the global rank to denote its questionable taxonomic assignment.

## FEDERAL STATUS RANK

Endangered (LE): A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened (LT): A species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

Candidate (C): A species that is a candidate for listing as either Endangered or Threatened, but more study is needed.