

## **Conservation of Wisconsin's Rare Plants** ***Vascular Flora of Wisconsin***

**Description:** You will write a short report on one selected vascular plant (species or subspecies) that is considered Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern in Wisconsin. The complete list can be found on the WI DNR website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/etlist.html>

A sign up sheet for each plant species will be available in the Lab.

**Objectives:** 1) Become familiar with the issues of conservation of rare plant species in Wisconsin. 2) Gain expertise on one rare plant species in the Wisconsin flora. 3) Integrate concepts from a diverse set of areas: systematics, biogeography, conservation, and ecology. 4) Improve written communication and presentation of scientific research and ideas.

You will be required to research and report on the following topics, and any others that you feel are necessary:

- Basic biology (e.g., growth form, flowering times, pollination biology, other life history features) and ecology (e.g., habitat, soil type, moisture regime, mycorrhizal associations) of the plant (*photo images may be attached to report – please cite source of images*)
- Distribution within Wisconsin and elsewhere in North America or the world (*maps may be attached to report – please cite sources of maps*)
- Taxonomic issues (if any) with the species or subspecies.
- Global and state ranks? What do these ranks mean? Articulate the differences between the terms: *endangered*, *threatened*, and of *special concern*.
- Reason(s) plant is rare in Wisconsin. Is it rare in other states/provinces?
- What is being done to protect populations of this species in Wisconsin? In other states?
- What additional measures, in your opinion, should be implemented to protect this species? Why? Be specific.
- Other topics as applicable for your plant species.

### **Specifics:**

This report should be minimally 3 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1" margins). References should be included and cited in the text. The list of references, any photo images, or maps is not included in the 3 page minimum requirement. Your grade will reflect the completeness of your report, depth of thought in addressing the above questions, thoroughness of literature research, and the overall quality of writing and presentation of your report.

Report should be printed out and handed in by **Tuesday, April 12**; please also email the Word formatted file to your lab instructor (not pdf).

The report is worth 30 pts (out of total 400 pts for course).