

Wetland Indicator Status: More Information and Sources

On June 1, 2012, the 2012 National Wetland Plant List replaced the 1988 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *National list of plant species that occur in wetlands* (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Report 88 (24)) for all wetland determinations and delineations performed for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Swampbuster provisions of the Food Security Act, and the National Wetland Inventory. This list was developed by the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), the [Fish and Wildlife Service \(FWS\)](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), and the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) using taxonomic and distribution data from the [Biota of North America program \(BONAP\)](#) and legacy information from the FWS. It is directed by the Corps of Engineers.

The 2012 list included changes in the names of species, the recognition of new species, changes in wetland regions, and changes in the wetland indicator statuses of species. This list was updated again on July 11, 2013, April 3, 2014, and April 18, 2016. These updates included more changes in the names of species, more changes in the wetland indicator statuses of species, the addition of new species, and the removal of species that were listed as Upland in all regions. For further information, see the [official website](#) of the National Wetland Plant List.

Note: PLANTS do not accept a few of the species names on the National Wetland Plant List. The species names in the NWPL must be used by those performing federal wetland delineations.

Section Quick Links

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Scientific names and regional wetland indicators for the PLANTS [2016 National Wetland Plant List](#) are taken from the official version of the National Wetland Plant List:

Lichvar, R.W., D.L. Banks, W.N. Kirchner, and N.C. Melvin. 2016. *The National Wetland Plant List: 2016 wetland ratings*. [Phytoneuron 2016-30: 1-17](#). (See also the [official website](#) of the National Wetland Plant List.)

Definitions of indicator categories are taken from:

Lichvar, R.W., N.C. Melvin, M.L. Butterwick, and W.N. Kirchner. 2012. *National Wetland Plant List indicator rating definitions*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and

Development Center, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory ERDC/CRREL TR-12-1.

Definitions of wetland regions are taken from:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2007. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Alaska Region* (Version 2.0). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-07-24.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2008. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Version 2.0). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-08-28.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (Version 2.0). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-10-20.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2011. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Caribbean Islands Region* (Version 2.0). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-11-4.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. *Interim regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-10-9.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Great Plains Region* (Version 2.0). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-10-1.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Hawai'i and Pacific Islands Region*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-10-6.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region* (Version 2.0). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-10-16.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2009. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-09-19.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2010. *Regional supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region* (Version 2.0). U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory ERDC/EL TR-10-3.

Indicator categories

Indicator Code	Indicator Status	Designation	Comment
OBL	Obligate Wetland	Hydrophyte	Almost always occur in wetlands
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Hydrophyte	Usually occur in wetlands, but may occur in non-wetlands
FAC	Facultative	Hydrophyte	Occur in wetlands and non-wetlands
FACU	Facultative Upland	Nonhydrophyte	Usually occur in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands
UPL	Obligate Upland	Nonhydrophyte	Almost never occur in wetlands

These indicator statuses are used to designate a plant species' preference for occurrence in a wetland or upland. The information supporting the indicator status assignments for the 1988 wetland list was qualitative, not quantitative. To better reflect the supporting information, the new category definitions are based on qualitative descriptions.

Regions and subregions

The wetland regions, the states wholly or partly in each region, and the definition of each region are listed below. Most of the regions are now defined by the boundaries of Land Resource Regions (LRRs) and Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) recognized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. LRRs are groups of MLRAs. For the boundaries of LRRs and MLRAs, see the [NRCS Major Land Resource Area \(MLRA\) page](#).

Region	Geographic areas in region	Definition of region
Alaska	AK	State of Alaska
Arid West	AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY	LRRs B, C, LRR D except MLRAs 22A, 22B, 39, and except embedded mountains above and including the ponderosa pine zone
Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain	AL, AR, DC, DE, FL, GA, IL, KY, LA, MD, MS, MO, NC, NJ, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA	LRR O, LRR P except MLRA 136, MLRA 149A of LRR S, LRRs T, U
Caribbean	PR (Puerto Rico), VI (U.S. Virgin Islands)	LRR Z
Eastern Mountains and Piedmont	AL, AR, DC, DE, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, MO, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, VA, WV	LRR N, MLRA 136 in LRR P, MLRAs 147, 148 in LRR S

Great Plains	CO, KS, MN, MT, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, WY	LRRs F, G except parts of MLRA 62 above lower limit of ponderosa pine zone, H, I, J
Hawaii and Pacific Islands	HI, GU (Guam), MP (Northern Mariana Islands), AS (American Samoa)	LRR V, portions of LRR Q
Midwest	IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OK, OH, SD, WI	LRR M
Northcentral and Northeast	CT, IL, IN, MA, ME, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI	LRRs K, L, R, MLRA 149B in LRR S
Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast	AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY	LRRs A, E, MLRAs 22A, 22B, 39 of LRR D, MLRA 62 of LRR G, other mountains above and including the ponderosa pine zone

The Alaska, Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain, Hawaii and Pacific Islands, and Northcentral and Northeast regions each have subregions. In these subregions, the wetland indicator status of several plant species differs from the status of the same species in the rest of the region. Alaska has 14 subregions, and the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain region, the Hawaii and Pacific Islands region, and the Northcentral and Northeast region have one subregion each. For maps of these subregions, see the [official website](#) of the National Wetland Plant List.

The table below lists each subregion, the region to which it belongs, and the states wholly or partly included in each subregion.

Subregion	Region	Geographic areas in subregion
Alaska Interior	Alaska	AK
Arctic Coastal Plain	Alaska	AK
Cook Inlet Lowlands	Alaska	AK
Copper River Basin	Alaska	AK
Interior Alaska Highlands	Alaska	AK
Interior Alaska Lowlands	Alaska	AK
Interior Alaska Mountains	Alaska	AK
Interior Brooks Range	Alaska	AK
Northern Brooks Range	Alaska	AK
Mountains		
Northern Seward Peninsula-	Alaska	AK
Selawik Lowlands		
Pebble, Donlin, Aniak	Alaska	AK
Seward Peninsula Highlands	Alaska	AK
Upper Kobuk and Koyukuk Hills and Valleys	Alaska	AK

Western Brooks Range Mountains, Foothills, and Valleys	Alaska	AK
Western Gulf Coast	Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain	AR, IL, KY, LA, MS, MO, OK, TN, TX
South Pacific Islands	Hawaii and Pacific Islands	GU (Guam), MP (Northern Mariana Islands), AS (American Samoa)
Northcentral Great Lakes	Northcentral and Northeast	IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Additional Information

For additional information, see the [official website](#) of the National Wetland Plant List.