

# **An overview of rare plant protection by states**

Gerry Moore  
National Plant Data Team  
USDA-NRCS  
Greensboro, NC

# **PLANTS UPDATE**

Gerry Moore<sup>1</sup>

## PLANTS INFORMATION

- Scientific names
- Common names
- Standardized symbols
- Classification
- Characteristics
- Images
- Distribution maps
- Native status
- Legal status (Rarity, Invasive/Noxious, Wetland)
- Data sources
- Plant Guides and Fact Sheets

Coverage: 35,000 species in the U.S., its territories, Canada and Greenland

## PLANTS USAGE

- International resource for standardized information about plants of the U.S.
- One of the most used websites in USDA with millions of page views per year
- Provides critical plant information for NRCS, other government entities, academia and the private sector

## CHALLENGES TO PLANTS AND PLANNED SOLUTIONS

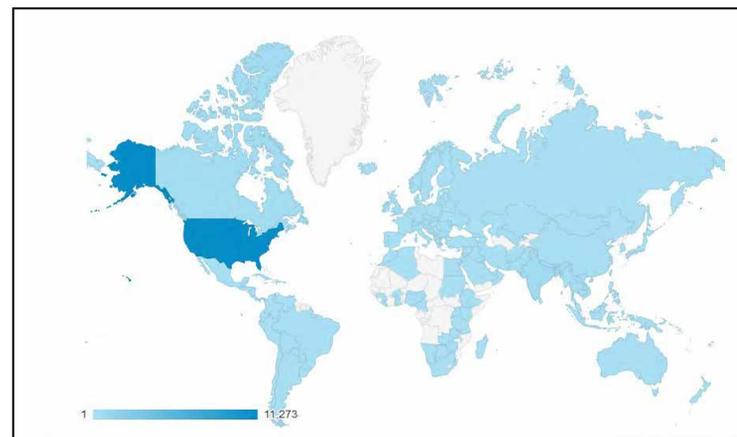
### Challenges

- Database and website outdated
- No data updates for over four years
- Updates nearly impossible

### Planned Solutions

- Redesign of database and website
- Development of a content manager for rapid data updates

## PLANTS usage



Location of 14,331 users on May 13, 2019



Kariba-weed (*Salvinia molesta*)  
photo: Mark Garland



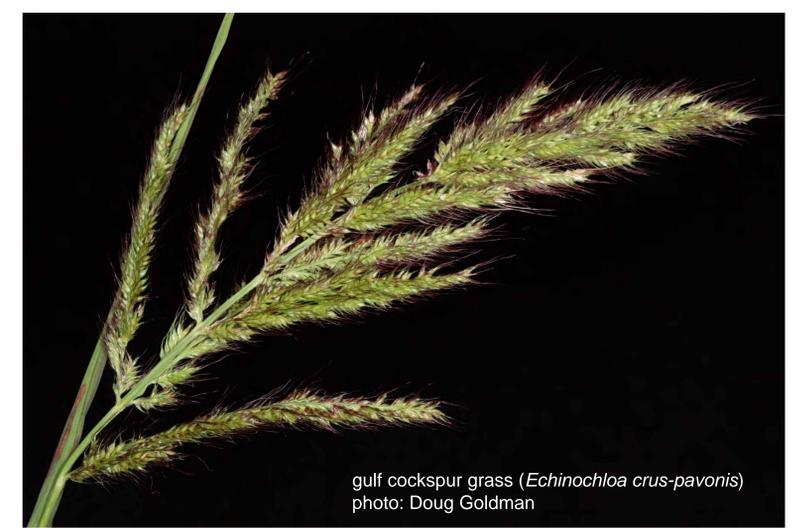
Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)  
photo: Doug Goldman



shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*)  
photo: Doug Goldman



streambank spiderlily (*Hymenocallis rotata*)  
photo: Mark Garland



gulf cocksbur grass (*Echinochloa crus-galis*)  
photo: Doug Goldman

<sup>1</sup> Leader, National Plant Data Team, USDA-NRCS, Greensboro, NC.  
[gerry.moore@usda.gov](mailto:gerry.moore@usda.gov)

### Basic Search

  
 Scientific Name ▼ Go

### State Search

### Group Search

### Duration Search

### Growth Habit Search

### Rarity Search

### Noxious/Invasive Search

### Wetland Search

### Image Search

### Fact Sheets/Plant Guides

### Characteristics

You are here: [Home](#)

# PLANTS Database

## Plant List of Accepted Nomenclature, Taxonomy, and Symbols

The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.

### Plant Spotlight



**red maple**  
*Acer rubrum*

[View Profile](#)

## News



### New PLANTS Web Site

Welcome to the new PLANTS web site! Information on the new website can be found in the [What is PLANTS](#) section. Additional releases will be forthcoming. For questions or concerns please [contact us](#).



### Basic Search

Scientific Name

### State Search

[Group Search](#)

[Duration Search](#)

[Growth Habit Search](#)

[Rarity Search](#)

[Noxious/Invasive Search](#)

[Wetland Search](#)

[Image Search](#)

[Fact Sheets/Plant Guides](#)

[Characteristics](#)

You are here: [Home](#)/Plant Profile

[General](#)

[Images](#)

[Synonyms](#)

[Rarity](#)

[Wetland](#)

[Related Links](#)

[Sources](#)

## *Aristolochia serpentaria* L.

Virginia snakeroot



### General Information

<b>Symbol:</b>	ARSE3
<b>Group:</b>	Dicot
<b>Duration:</b>	Perennial
<b>Growth Habit:</b>	Forb/herb
<b>Native Status:</b>	L48 N



**Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*)**

Basic Search

Lygodium palmatum x

Scientific Name v Go

State Search

Group Search

Duration Search

Growth Habit Search

Rarity Search

Noxious/Invasive Search

Wetland Search

Image Search

Fact Sheets/Plant Guides

Characteristics

You are here: [Home](#)/Plant Profile

General

Images

Rarity

Wetland

Related Links

Sources

## *Lygodium palmatum* (Bernh.) Sw.

American climbing fern



© Thomas G. Barnes

### General Information

<b>Symbol:</b>	LYPA3
<b>Group:</b>	Fern
<b>Duration:</b>	Perennial
<b>Growth Habit:</b>	Forb/herb Vine
<b>Native Status:</b>	L48 N





# Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*)

SILVER WEDDING.—Captain Charles D. Copeland and lady, celebrated the 25th anniversary of their marriage on Saturday evening, at their residence on Pine street. The house was tastefully and elaborately decorated with Hartford fern, and every arrangement made for a general good time. About 150 friends were present, some from a distance, prominent among whom was George French, Esq., of Wilmington, N. C., who entertained the company with a speech in which he wove many pleasant reminiscences of the former days, and some incidents of the recent "times that tried men's souls" and bodies in the rebellion struggle, in which the Captain had a share. Bank street church was well repre-

# Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*)

run rigged ships.

## HARTFORD FERNS.

A year or two ago smilax was all the rage. Men sold it at all the street corners, and ladies purchased it to trim their hair and dresses with. It has, however, been superseded in public favor in this city by another plant of somewhat similar appearance—the Hartford Fern. This is now sold along the streets, and the trade is quite lively. For a long time ladies using this fern were compelled to press it themselves, and in this way it became a nuisance rather than a pleasure. It can now be purchased already pressed, thus saving a great amount of trouble. When pressed it lasts a long time, and is very pretty. It grows exclusively in Hartford, and can there be found in the woods. The people used to tear it up by the roots and sell the plants to outsiders, but is a hard thing to cultivate, and that trade

# Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*)

26

CONNECTICUT GEOL. AND NAT. HIST. SURVEY.

[Bull.

## SCHIZAEACEAE. CURLY GRASS FAMILY.

### LYGODIUM Sw. Climbing Fern.

*Lygodium palmatum* (Bernh.) Sw. (branching like the outspread fingers of a hand).

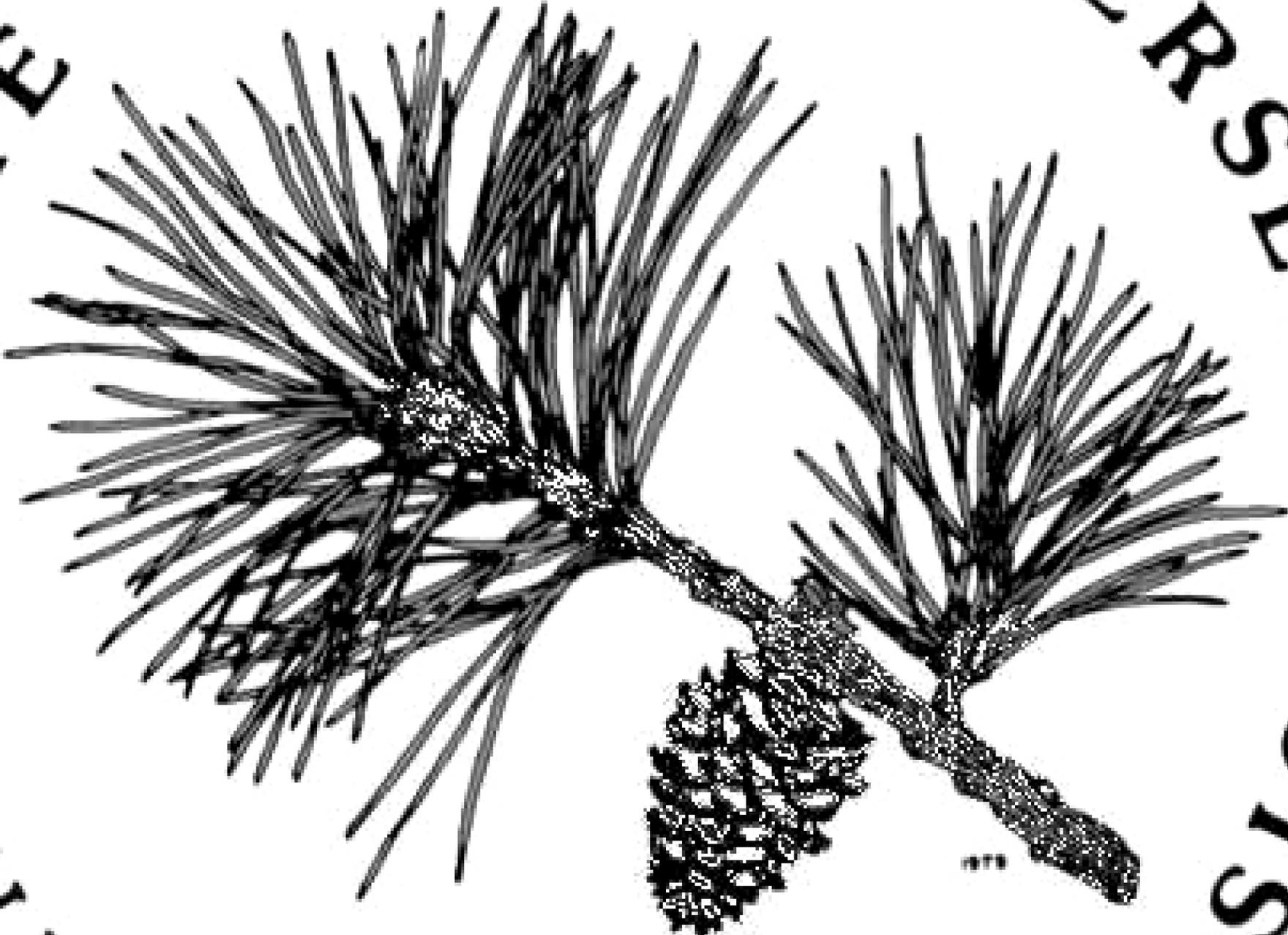
Creeping Fern. Hartford Fern. Climbing Fern.

Rich woods and thickets, in moist, usually sandy soil. Not reported from western Connecticut; rare in eastern districts: Griswold (Harger & Graves), Lyme (Dr. E. J. Thompson). Local at many stations in the central part of the state. Aug.—Sept.

The following Act was passed by the Legislature and became a law on July 8, 1869: "Any person who shall wilfully and maliciously sever or take from the land of another any of the species of plant known as *Lygodium palmatum* or Creeping Fern growing and being thereon, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Seven Dollars or imprisonment in county jail not exceeding thirty days or by such fine and imprisonment both at the discretion of the court." The penalty for this offense was later increased. Prior to 1869 this fern was extensively collected and pressed for decorative purposes.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
PINELANDS COMMISSION



# Climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*)

## When the proposed route met the fern

Continued from preceding page  
the state Pinelands Commission, that had not even been in existence when the bypass was first proposed.

"The problem with the Pemberton Bypass is that as the project progressed, environmental regulations changed and got more restrictive," county Engineer James Quinn said.

Still, county officials secured what they considered crucial approval in February 1981, when the Pinelands Commission, which protects the New Jersey Pinelands from development, approved the route.

The county freeholders approved \$1.1 million in bonds in June 1982 and began the time-consuming process of buying the land where the road would be. The bypass seemed only a couple of years away.

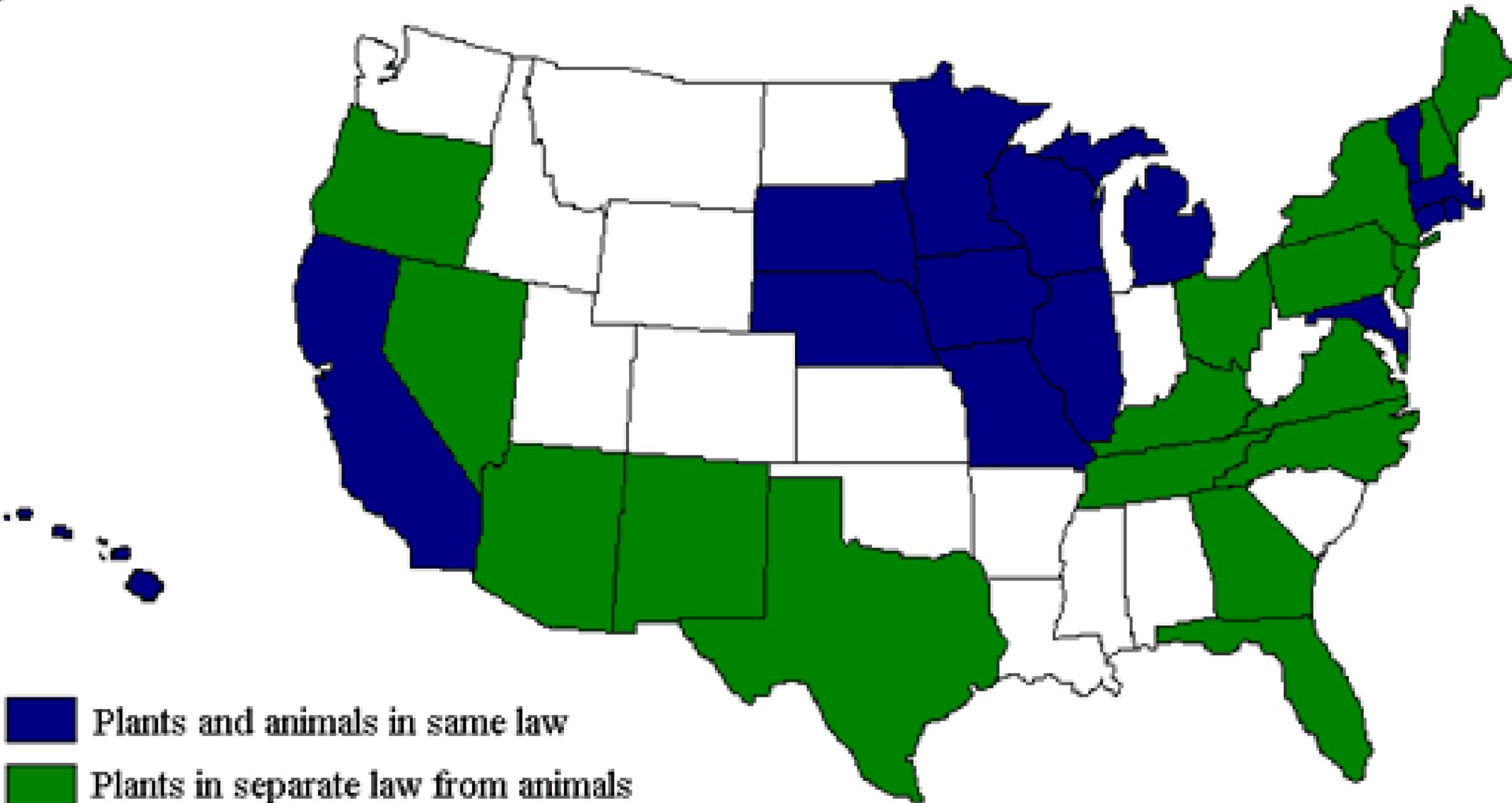
But then the county engineers discovered a way to save \$1 million by shortening two bridges planned for the bypass, and the proposed road met *Lygodium palmatum*. *Lygodium* is a climbing fern that was practically extinct at the time, according to William F. Harrison, assistant director of the Pinelands Commission. The fern was located by the commission in a couple of patches scattered over a site the size of a football field.

At first, the county took a hard line on the fern. "We are willing to move the fern to another location, but changing the alignment of the bypass



# **Rare plant protection by the states**

# State Endangered Plant Laws



- Plants and animals in same law
- Plants in separate law from animals
- No endangered plant law

Information from: George, S., et al. 1998

# Rare plant protection by the states

George et al. (1998): “The role of state governments in protecting not just endangered species, but all species, can be summed up with one fact: state governments traditionally have been the chief stewards of wildlife within their borders. The states therefore serve a vital role in protecting and conserving their own plants, animals and habitats.”

# **State ESA Laws (Animals, Plants)**

- **California**

- **Native Plant Protection Act of 1977**
- **California Endangered Species Act of 1984**

- **Maryland**

- **Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act**

- **Massachusetts**

- **Massachusetts Endangered Species Act**

# **State Rare Plant Laws**

- **Oregon**
  - **Wildflowers; Threatened or Endangered Plants Act**
- **Florida**
  - **Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act**
- **New Jersey**
  - **New Jersey Endangered Plant Species List Act**
  - **New Jersey Pinelands Protection Act**
  - **Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act**
- **New York**
  - **New York State Environmental Conservation Law section 9-1503**

# **No Rare Plant Law but Statuses**

- **Washington**

- **Endangered**
- **Threatened**
- **Sensitive**
- **Extirpated**

**“WNHP is not a regulatory agency, the program’s list and rankings help inform conservation decisions relating to rare plants on federal, state, private, and tribal lands (WDNR 2018).”**