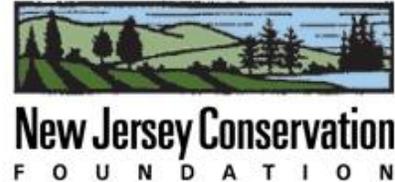




PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE



MEMORANDUM

May 2012

To: All organizations and individuals interested in protecting New Jersey's rare plants

From: Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Partnerships for New Jersey Plant Conservation

RE: **Support the Creation of the New Jersey Native Plant Protection Act**

About 39% of all native plant species in New Jersey are considered threatened to some degree. The New Jersey Endangered Plant Species List Act, enacted in 1989, was originally intended to fully protect rare plant species, however, the version passed by the State Legislature requires only that plant species classified as "endangered" and as "species of concern" be documented on a list. These listed plants are not actually protected unless they are found in specific and limited places like in the Pinelands or Highlands and are vulnerable to both direct threats through physical destruction and to indirect threats like habitat degradation.

It's time for New Jersey to protect its rare and endangered plants as it protects its wildlife. Plants and wildlife are part of the same ecological community, and one group cannot be protected if the other is ignored. Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Partnerships for New Jersey Plant Conservation need local environmental advocacy groups, conservation groups, scientific organizations, ecologists, naturalists, outdoor enthusiasts, and any other individual or group concerned with rare plants and biodiversity conservation to sign on to support the development and implementation of legislation that will protect rare plants and their habitat.

For more information, please see the attached factsheet and visit PPA's website devoted to this issue at www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/work/currentissues/ecological/rareplantprotection/, and contact Amy Karpati at amy@pinelandsalliance.org to sign on. When you sign on in support, we will list your name or organization on the back of the factsheet for future distribution.

Let's work together to formally protect New Jersey's rich botanical heritage. Please feel free to distribute this letter and the attached factsheet to any other organization or person you believe will support this campaign as well.

Thank you!

Pinelands Preservation Alliance
New Jersey Conservation Foundation
Partnerships for New Jersey Plant Conservation