

# Golden Club

## *Orontium aquaticum*

### Description

Golden Club is an aquatic perennial that often grows in standing water, with its leaves and flowering stems extending above the water line. This species belongs to the same family as Jack-in-the-pulpit and grows up to 18 inches (46 cm) tall. The leaves are oblong to elliptic, dark green, and velvety. The leaves are up to 12 inches (30 cm) long and repel water so that they always appear dry. The flowers are yellow and bloom from April to May. The tiny flowers are carried on the golden-yellow tip of club-shaped flowering stems. These swollen flowering stems are white directly below the flowers.



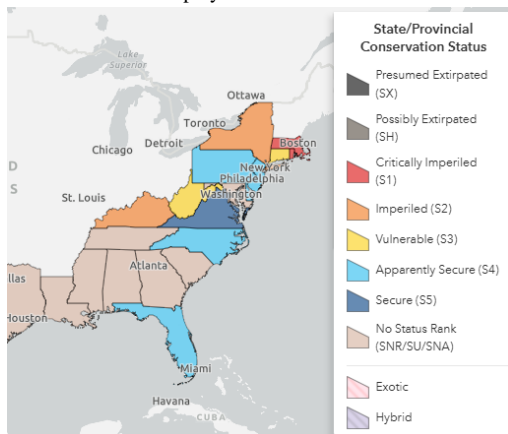
Photo source: Sally Ray (PNHP)

### Distribution & Habitat

Golden Club occurs from New York and Massachusetts south to Florida and west to Texas. In Pennsylvania, it can be found in lakes, ponds, oxbow floodplains, and wet shores where it grows rooted in the muck beneath the water.

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



### Conservation Considerations

Maintenance of known populations of Golden Club and protection of its wetland communities will be crucial to its survival. Creating buffers around its habitat, removal of invasive species, and protection of wetland hydrology will help to maintain populations and encourage new population growth. The management of known sites requires long term monitoring of populations. Potential sites for restoration should be evaluated.

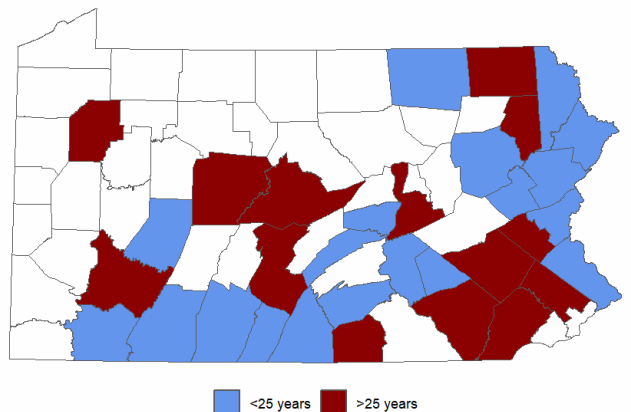
### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally Secure; S4 – Apparently Secure in Pennsylvania

### Current State Status

Golden Club has a assigned rarity status of Rare. Populations can be negatively impacted by poor water quality, deer and waterfowl browsing, conversion of land for development, and accompanying hydrologic changes. This species has disappeared from many sites in southeast Pennsylvania.

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Legend: Blue = <25 years, Red = >25 years



### References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2025.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.