

# Twig-rush

## *Cladium mariscoides*

### Description

Twig-rush is a perennial grass-like herb with upright stems that grow to 40 inches (1 m) tall. The leaves are linear, rough along the edges, and about 1/8 inch (3 mm) wide. The individual flowers, appearing in summer, are minute and are grouped in small, brown spikelets that are covered by spirally arranged scales. The spikelets are grouped into 1/4 inch (6 mm) heads which are displayed in a narrow cluster. The fruits are about 1/8 inch (3 mm) long and acorn-shaped.

### Distribution & Habitat

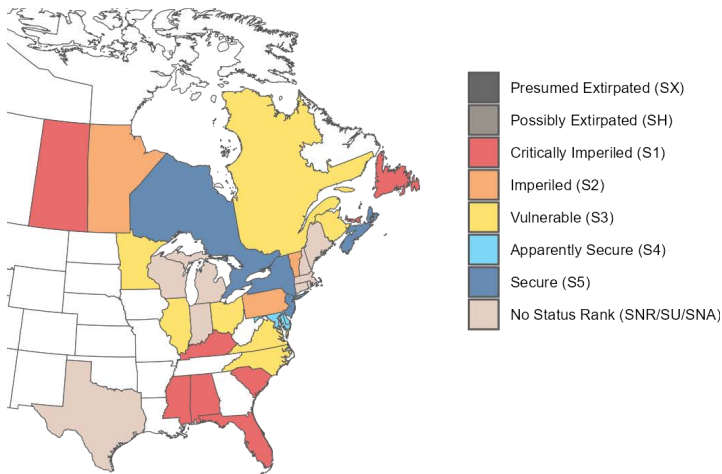
Twig-rush has a range from eastern and central Canada south into Texas and the Gulf states. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in scattered locations, particularly in the glaciated northwestern and northeastern counties. It grows in quaking bogs, marshes, fens, and along shorelines of lakes and ponds.



Photo source: Lopez

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers twig-rush to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered. About 15 populations are currently known in the state.

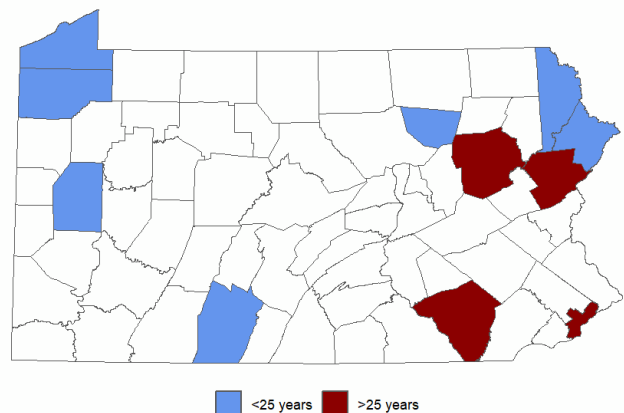
### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of twig-rush and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S2 –Imperiled in Pennsylvania

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### References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- 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.