



# 2014 Annual Update National Wetland Plant List

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**Background:** When USACE announced the roll out of the updated National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) in May 2012, it was noted that periodic updates would occur as taxonomy or nomenclature changed, new species were identified, or re-evaluation of uncertain status ratings by interagency regional panels of botanists were performed.

The NWPL plays a critical role in wetland determinations under the Clean Water Act and the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act. Wetlands are evaluated using three factors – soils, hydrology, and vegetation in accordance with the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and Regional Supplements. The NWPL is used in evaluating the vegetation factor.



The NWPL is a list of wetland plants and their assigned indicator statuses. An indicator status reflects the likelihood that a particular plant occurs in a wetland or upland. The five indicator statuses are: Obligate (OBL) plants that always occur in standing water or in saturated soils; Facultative Wet (FACW) plants that nearly always occur in areas of prolonged flooding or require standing water or saturated soils but may, on rare occasions, occur in non-wetlands; Facultative (FAC) plants that occur in a variety of habitats, including wetland and mesic to xeric non-wetland habitats but commonly occur in standing water or saturated soils; Facultative Upland (FACU) plants that typically occur in xeric or mesic non-wetland habitats but may frequently occur in standing water or saturated soils; and Upland (UPL) plants that rarely occur in water or saturated soils.

One of the primary advantages of a web-based list housed on the internet is the ability to make changes to this dynamic list more readily. The original 2012 NWPL was updated in 2013 and went into effect on September 1, 2013. The 2014 annual update is now complete. The 2014 NWPL has been published on the [NWPL website](#) and the updated list contains 8057 plant species, an increase of 120 species, based on new literature. The majority of these new species received FACU ratings. The bulk of the 2014 update is the additional ratings for 754 species that were noted to occur in other areas of the 10 Corps Regional Supplement regions, based on the literature and herbarium records. All of these species were already included on the NWPL and only the new occurrences were rated. The 2014 update includes no nomenclature or taxonomic changes. Overall, these revisions represent a less than one percent change in species and ratings from the 2013 NWPL. Many of those plants that were updated are uncommon. A summary of all the changes can be found on the NWPL website under the "What's New?" section.

**Implementation:** Federal agencies will use the 2014 NWPL on all new Jurisdictional Determinations after May 1, 2014. Any delineations underway with the current list will be accepted, please just reference which list was used in your documentation. The NWPL can be found at [http://wetland\\_plants.usace.army.mil](http://wetland_plants.usace.army.mil).