



New Jersey Field Office

Northeast Region

NJ Field Office
Home

[What We Do](#) [What You Can Do](#) [FAQs](#) [Contact Us](#)

Swamp Pink (*Helonias bullata*) [threatened]

Project Review:

Consultation and

Technical

Assistance

Endangered Species

Habitat Restoration

Conservation

Planning

Migratory Birds

Environmental

Contaminants

Kids & Teachers

Publications

On This Page

- [Overview](#)
- [Distribution](#)
- [Examples of actions that may affect this species](#)
- [Best Management Practices](#)
- [What to do if this species occurs on your property or project site](#)
- [Adopt a Swamp Pink Population](#)

Guidance

- [Survey Guidelines](#) [PDF]

Additional Information

- [ECOS Profile](#) (recovery plan, 5-year reviews)
- [Identification Guide](#)
- [Photographs](#)
- [Poster](#) [PDF]
- [Video: Camden County College](#) **NEW**
- [Fact Sheet: Northeast Region](#) [PDF]
- [Fact Sheet: Virginia](#) [PDF]
- [Fact Sheet: Virginia Natural Heritage Program](#) [PDF]
- [Center for Plant Conservation](#)

IN BRIEF

Habitat:

Forested wetlands

Main Threats:

Adjacent development
Past wetland destruction
Climate change

Fun Fact:

Many swamp pink rosettes are actually clones of a mother plant.



Overview

Swamp pink was federally listed as a threatened species in 1988.

A perennial member of the lily family, swamp pink has smooth, oblong, dark green leaves that form an evergreen rosette. In spring, some rosettes produce a flowering stalk that can grow over 3 feet tall. The stalk is topped by a 1 to 3-inch-long cluster of 30 to 50 small, fragrant, pink flowers dotted with pale blue anthers. The evergreen leaves of swamp pink can be seen year round, and flowering occurs between March and May.

Supporting over half of the known populations. New Jersey is the stronghold for swamp pink. An

Supporting over half of the known populations, New Jersey is the stronghold for swamp pink. An obligate wetland species, swamp pink occurs in a variety of palustrine forested wetlands including swampy forested wetlands bordering meandering streamlets, headwater wetlands, sphagnum Atlantic white-cedar swamps, and spring seepage areas. Specific hydrologic requirements of swamp pink limit its occurrence within these wetlands to areas that are perennially saturated, but not inundated, by floodwater. The water table must be at or near the surface, fluctuating only slightly during spring and summer months. Groundwater seepage with lateral groundwater movement are common hydrologic characteristics of swamp pink habitat.

Swamp pink is a shade-tolerant plant and has been found in wetlands with canopy closure varying between 20-100%. Sites with minimal canopy closure are less vigorous due in part to competition from other species. Common vegetative associates of swamp pink include Atlantic white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), American larch (*Larix laricina*), black cypress (*Black cypress*), red cypress (*Red cypress*), sweetgum (*Glutierrezia*), and sweetgum (*Glutierrezia*).

Last updated: January 28, 2014