

MICHIGAN FLORISTIC QUALITY ASSESSMENT DATABASE - 2014

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The Michigan Floristic Quality Assessment System (FQAS) was first compiled and released in 1996 by Herman et al. Its development was based on a technique created for evaluating and comparing natural areas of the Chicago area (Wilhelm and Ladd 1988), eventually becoming a system incorporated by Swink and Wilhelm (1994) as a tool for evaluating the relative floristic quality of sites within their regional flora. This system is now widely emulated in a number of states and has also been developed for selected regions in Canada (see citations).

A fully revised second edition of the Michigan FQAS was subsequently issued in 2001 (Herman et al.). The second edition included an improved, user-friendly computer application with several modifications and updates to the comprehensive Michigan Flora list. Many list revisions were warranted at that time based on significant advances in knowledge of the Michigan Flora, changes in the state listing (i.e. rarity status) of species, and the need to better reflect widely recognized, contemporary taxonomic treatments such as those presented in the ongoing Flora of North America series (Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds.1993+)

A fully updated Michigan Floristic Quality Assessment Database was comprehensively revised in 2014 to reconcile it with both the recently published *Field Manual of Michigan Flora* (Voss and Reznicek 2012) and the *Michigan Flora Online* (Reznicek et al. 2011). Since floristic works begin to become outdated as soon as they are published (or more accurately go to press), maintaining an online or "e-flora" is ideally suited for keeping pace with dynamic information. Thus it is primarily through *Michigan Flora Online* that a regularly updated FQA list will be continuously made available, eliminating the need for developing periodic printed editions and other materials with limited lifespans.

DATABASE ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Six digit reference code for each taxon
C	Coefficient of conservatism
*	Non-native taxon (defaults to 0 value in FQI calculations)
ST	Listing status recognized by the State of Michigan (extirpated, endangered, threatened, and special concern species)
X	Extirpated
E	Endangered
T	Threatened
SC	Special Concern
W	Wetness coefficient – includes modified ratings
WET	Michigan wetland categories – includes modified ratings
PHYS	Physiognomy (habit/growth form): forb, grass, vine, sedge, shrub, tree, fern, fern ally
	AD = Adventive (non-native) taxa
	NT = Native taxa
	A = Annual
	B = Biennial
	P = Perennial
	W = Woody

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