

Species: Tawny Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*)

Global Rank: G5

State Rank: SNR

Climate Change Vulnerability Index: Not Vulnerable/Presumed Stable

Confidence: Very High

Habitat:

Tawny cotton-grass occurs in most of the eastern half of Canada and extends from Minnesota to the east coast of the United States and south to Florida (NatureServe 2011). The species is widely dispersed in Pennsylvania (Rhoads and Klein 1993), and is found in bogs, peaty meadows, and peaty swamps where soils remain saturated throughout the growing season (Cusick 1981; Rhoads and Block 2007).

Current Threats:

Drainage and conversion of wetlands and bog succession are threats to the species (Southern Appalachian Species Viability Project 2002; NatureServe 2011).

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

Results from the CCVI analysis suggest that tawny cotton-grass is Not Vulnerable/Presumed Stable. Available evidence does not suggest that the abundance and/or range extent within Pennsylvania will change (increase/decrease) substantially by 2050. However, actual boundaries may change. The ability to disperse longer distances, lack of barriers to movement, and a widespread range throughout Pennsylvania are all factors that contribute to the short-term climate change resilience indicated by the CCVI. However, additional stressors that may affect the species are not considered in the CCVI and should also be evaluated when planning conservation related activities.

References:

Cusick, A.W. 1982. *Eriophorum virginicum* abstract. Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
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NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Central Databases. Arlington, Virginia. USA.

Rhoads, A. and T. Block. 2007. The plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd Edition. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Rhoads, A. and W.M. Klein. 1993. The vascular flora of Pennsylvania annotated checklist and atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA.

Southern Appalachian Species Viability Project. 2002. A partnership between the U.S. Forest Service-Region 8, Natural Heritage Programs in the Southeast, regionally and locally rare species in the Southern Appalachian and Alabama region. Database (Access 97) provided to the U.S. Forest Service by NatureServe, Durham, North Carolina.