

Announcement

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wetland Regulatory Program announces the release of its new web site for updating the National Wetland Plant List (NWPL), a key component of its national wetland program. The NWPL, a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, lists the wetland ratings for plant species found throughout the U.S. and is used extensively in determining wetland boundaries, restoring wetlands, and conducting ecological research. The new web site will allow experts and interested parties to submit information and participate in the process of updating the NWPL. Of more general interest is the site's wealth of information on nearly 10,000 U.S. plants, including distribution maps and photographs. Search capabilities for geographic, habitat, and other attributes allow users to follow their interests locally, regionally, or nationally for information on plant families, genera, and species. This is the first time that such a range of detailed botanical information has been gathered and made easily available to the public. The address is https://rsgis.crrel.usace.army.mil/apex/f?p=703. (Non-Corps users may need to accept a web certificate the first time they visit the site.) While the NWPL is being updated, only registered participants will have access to background information used in developing current wetland ratings. Later, when the site is published in the Federal Register as part of the updating process, all visitors will be able to obtain an automated password allowing them to view this information.