

ATLANTIC  
COASTALPLAIN  
FLORA

# New Jersey Rush

*Juncus caesariensis*

<b>STATUS</b>	Not Listed 	Not Listed 
Special Concern 	Vulnerable 	Not Listed 



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Green flowers (left), brown fruit capsules (right)

## Species Description

New Jersey Rush is a perennial grass-like plant, 40-70 cm tall. It has elongated, cylindrical leaves with noticeable horizontal lines (septa). Its inconspicuous green flowers are organized in a widely spreading and branched cluster at the top of the stem, which mature into pointed brown fruit capsules that are longer than the floral parts. Its stem and leaves are rough to the touch.



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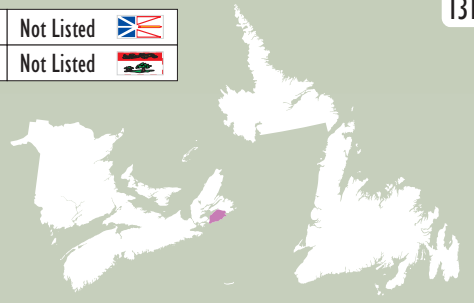
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Occurs in a number of bogs and fens in southern Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.



## Habitat

New Jersey Rush is found in open habitats along the edges of bogs and fens and in boggy areas of coniferous forests. Prefers open, unshaded areas and areas where groundwater provides slightly increased levels of nutrients.

New Jersey Rush is restricted to peatlands (bogs and fens) where it occurs in Nova Scotia. Look for its flowers from July to October.

## Interesting Points

- The only ACPF species at risk found only in Cape Breton. The distribution of most ACPF species is in southwest Nova Scotia.
- The habitat for this species in NS represents some of the largest remaining and most intact worldwide.
- Can persist in unsatisfactory living conditions (shaded areas) for a period of time in a vegetative form and resume growth when the canopy is reopened.



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## Similar Species

**Note:**  
There are over 25 rush species found in Nova Scotia.

**Canada Rush** (*Juncus canadensis*): Common throughout the province and very similar to the New Jersey Rush. Canada Rush has smooth leaves and stems and more dense flowers and fruiting clusters.



Canada Rush



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Canada Rush (left) New Jersey Rush (right)

## Threats to Survival

- Activities that alter water flow and drainage in wetland habitats (infilling, road building and certain forestry practices).
- Closures in canopy due to natural succession reduce open areas and remove suitable habitat.

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## How You Can Help

Avoid building roads, infilling or driving vehicles in wetlands or along wetland margins since these activities alter key ecological processes. Any activity that permanently changes a wetland must be approved by NS Environment (contact your DNR regional biologist for details). Drive off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on designated trails only and do not travel in sensitive lakeshore and wetland habitats.



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ATV damage



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ACPF Information Booth and BBQ

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NS DNR (902) 679-6091

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)

**Stewardship:** Nova Scotia Nature Trust: [nature@nsnt.ca](mailto:nature@nsnt.ca), MTRI: [info@merseytobeatric.ca](mailto:info@merseytobeatric.ca)