

# Species Status Assessment

**Common Name** Nantucket juneberry **Date Updated:** 2024-03-04

**Scientific Name** *Amelanchier nantucketensis* **Updated By:** Richard M. Ring

**Family** Rosaceae

**Species Synopsis** *(a short paragraph which describes species taxonomy, distribution, recent trends, and habitat in New York):*

Nantucket Juneberry (*Amelanchier nantucketensis*) is a perennial shrub species. Juneberry (*Amelanchier*) taxonomy is complicated, and made more so by the occurrence of hybrids and apomictic, asexual reproduction. Nantucket Juneberry can only be distinguished from other related species when it is in flower, which limits the window for surveys. It's range extends from Maine south to Virginia. In New York, it was long believed to only occur on Long Island, but in the last decade has been discovered at several sites in the Hudson Valley. As a result, the number of known extant sites has trended upward, although the overall population size in the state appears to be about steady. In New York it occurs in open habitats of various sorts. Populations on Long Island and Staten Island occur on sandy soil, including maritime grasslands, heath-dominated shrublands, and openings on oak and pine woodlands. Upstate in the Hudson Valley, it has been found on shallow bedrock and rocky ridges, on mountain summits, ridges, and riverside outcrops (NYHP 2023, 2024).

## I. Status

### a. Current legal protected Status

i. Federal: **Candidate:**

ii. New York: Endangered

### b. Natural Heritage Program

i. Global: G3Q

ii. New York: S1 **Tracked by NYNHP?** On Active Tracking List

### Other Ranks:

COSEWIC: Not listed in Canada

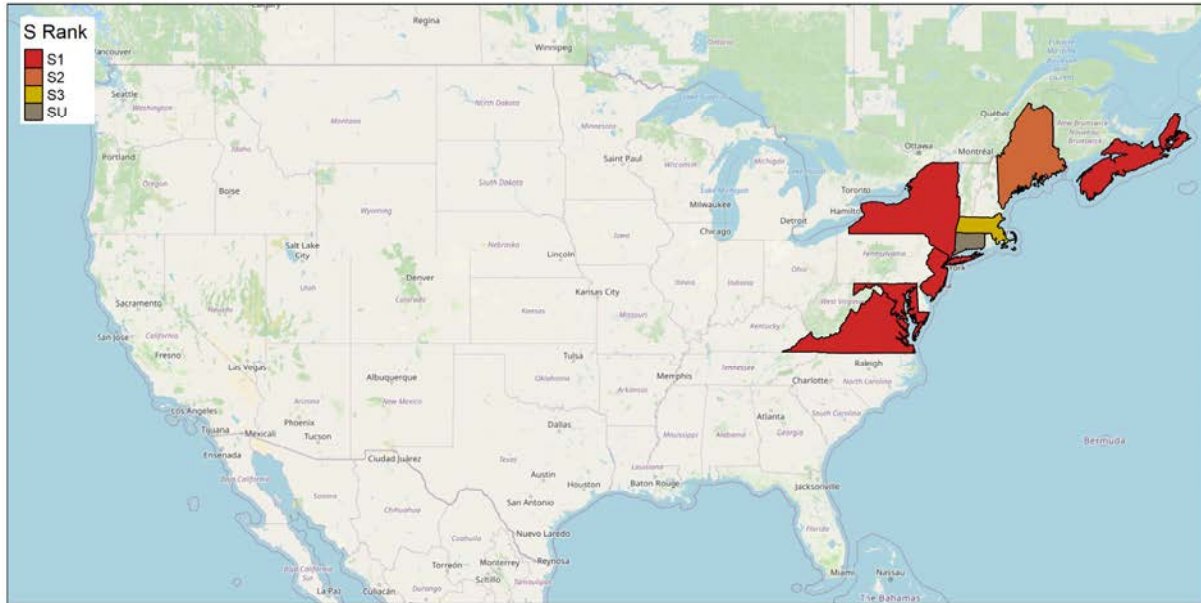
IUCN Red List: Not assessed by IUCN Red List

## Status Discussion:

*Amelanchier nantucketensis* is Endangered in New York (Ring 2023). There are nine known extant populations in New York, and one additional historical record. Until 2019 this species' range in the state was thought to be restricted to Long Island and the New York City area, but since that time four populations have been found in the Hudson Valley. The species is clonal and produces multiple stems, so population size may be difficult to assess, but the largest population is estimated to have around 100 plants, and the overall population in the state may be between 300 and 400. Improved knowledge of the species' habitat and range has led to a decrease in its overall rarity, but it is still limited in NY population size and number, and more up to date surveys are needed (NYNHP 2023).

## II. Abundance and Distribution

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status or S-Rank	SGCN?
North America	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
Northeastern US	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
New York	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	E	
Connecticut	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	SU	
Massachusetts	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	S3	
New Jersey	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	S1	
Pennsylvania	No	-	-	-		
Vermont	No	-	-	-		
Ontario	No	-	-	-		
Quebec	No	-	-	-		



**Figure 1:** *Amelanchier nantucketensis* North American distribution.

Percent of North American Range in NY	Classification of NY Range	Distance to core population, if not in NY
1-25%	Core	

## Trends Discussion

### Short term trends (<100 years)

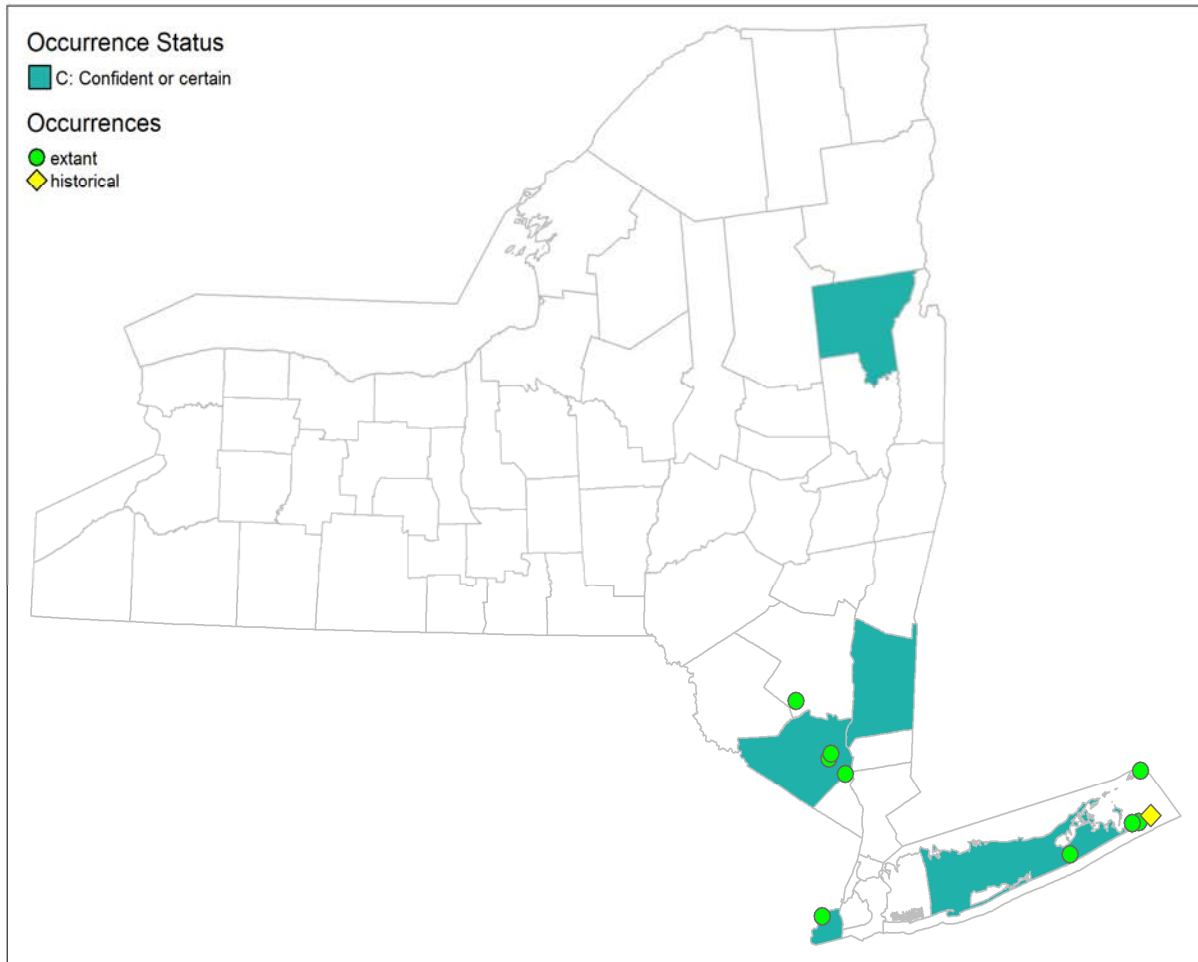
The trend over the last decade has been increasing in terms of number of known populations, and seemingly stable to slightly increasing in overall population size (NYNHP 2023). However, 5 of the Long Island populations have not been surveyed since 2010 or before, so revisits are needed to fully assess the trend.

### Long term trends

New York populations were first surveyed in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century, so long-term trends are difficult to assess, although the Staten Island population appears to have declined due to development (NYNHP 2024).

## Details of Historic and Current occurrence

Nantucket Juneberry's range in NY extends from eastern Long Island through the lower and upper Hudson Valley – the Hudson Valley populations only being discovered in the last decade. The overall population is estimated to be between 300 and 400 plants. Initially discovered on Nantucket Island and believed to be limited to the Atlantic Coast, Nantucket Juneberry has now also been found inland from Maine to Virginia.



**Figure 2:** NYS distribution for *Amelanchier nantucketensis*.

**Table 1.** Number of records (element occurrences) of *Amelanchier nantucketensis* grouped by the dates known to be extant (the years spanning first observation to last observation) and the number and percent of total of USGS 7.5 minute map quadrangles these observations fall within for New York State.

Years	# of Records	# of distinct quads	% of quads in State
Pre-1995	5	4	0.4
1995-2004	4	4	0.4
2005-2014	3	3	0.3
2015-2023	4	4	0.4

### Monitoring in New York

Five of the nine known extant NY populations are part of State Parks and thus monitored every five to 10 years – those in the Hudson Valley were first discovered and surveyed in the last five years. The remaining populations are on private land and have no recent or scheduled monitoring, with the last observed dates ranging from 1990 to 2010. Additional monitoring is



## VI. Threats

On Staten Island the development of a hotel complex has threatened the plants. On Long Island there are plants along a powerline right-of-way and a railroad that are occasionally subject to destructive disturbance when there is maintenance of the right-of-ways. The upstate populations are small, and some occur along hiking trails, where they may be threatened by trampling (NYNHP 2023).

**Are there regulatory mechanisms that protect the species or its habitat in New York?**

**Yes:**

**No:**



**Unknown:**

If yes, describe mechanism and whether adequate to protect species/habitat:

**Describe knowledge of management/conservation actions that are needed for recovery/conservation, or to eliminate, minimize, or compensate for the identified threats:**

Maintain a buffer around plants to prevent direct destruction or poisoning from herbicides. Maintain succession in an early stage to prevent competition from larger shrubs and trees.

Complete Conservation Actions table using IUCN conservation actions taxonomy at link below. Use headings 1-6 for Action Category (e.g., Land/Water Protection) and associated subcategories for Action (e.g., Site/Area Protection) -

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/conservation-actions-classification-scheme>

**Table 3.** Recommended conservation actions for *Amelanchier nantucketensis*.

Conservation Actions	
Action Category	Action
Land/water protection	1.1. Site/area protection
Land/water protection	1.2. Resource & habitat protection
Land/water management	2.1. Site/area management
Land/water management	2.2. Invasive/problematic species control
Land/water management	2.3. Habitat & natural process restoration

## VII. References

**This SSA drew heavily from these resources:**

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