

The following are recommended qualifications for botanists completing rare plant surveys:

- Bachelor's degree with a major in biology and two years of field botany work experience in or near the New England region or four years' experience as a field botanist in or near the New England region.
- Experience/competency using the most recently published regional floristic technical manuals as the primary sources utilized for plant identification.
- Experience/competency conducting botanical and rare plant surveys and the ability to assess threats and management needs.
- Experience/competency identifying invasive plant species.
- Experience/competency identifying grasses, sedges, and rushes.
- Frequent use of plant press to collect/press specimens that require further examination to confirm identification.
- Access and frequent use of a dissecting microscope.
- Familiarity with plant community classifications and the relationship between natural communities and environmental factors controlling them.
- Familiarity with concepts in plant ecology – factors that affect plants as individuals, populations, and communities, such as life history, resource use, competition, and animal-plant interactions (e.g., pollination, dispersal, herbivory).
- For especially difficult taxa, (e.g., *Carex*, *Crataegus*, *Eleocharis*, *Isoetes*, *Rosa*, *Rubus*, *Salix*, *Scirpus*, *Viola*), additional study through plant taxonomy seminars or self-study is recommended, but not required.