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The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.

**Plant of the Week**



**porpidia lichen**  
*Porpidia albocaerulescens* (Wulfen)  
 Hertel & Knoph

[Click on the photo for a full plant profile.](#)

**Spotlights**



**2016 National Wetland Plant List**

The wetland indicator status ratings from the 2016 National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) are now on our species profile pages and are fully searchable.



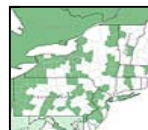
**NRCS pollinator references and documents-Updated**

See [NRCS pollinator-related literature and documentation](#), including the updated Technical Note TN.190.B.78 - [Using 2014 Farm Bill Programs for Pollinator Conservation](#).



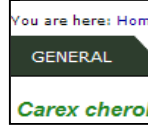
**Slide show for images**

PLANTS now presents images in a "slide show", enabling PLANTS users to scroll through photos and line art, providing a faster and easier way to review images.



**PLANTS has new maps**

Plants is trying out a new, more modern mapping system. Our new system allows users to scroll side to side and zoom in and out. At higher scale zoom levels users can see county-level data.



**Redesigned profile pages: Tabs**

PLANTS has redesigned its profile pages for species and genera, now presented in tabs instead of across one large page. Your feedback has helped us improve our new design, and we welcome [your additional input](#).



**Pocket Guide to Sagebrush**

Funded partly by NRCS, a new guide to sagebrush is available. Written by Leila Shultz and produced by [SageSTEP](#), this guide covers the characteristics, distribution, and habitats of 18 sagebrush species.

**Common Weeds in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands**

A bilingual guide to the common weeds of

**I Want To...**

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- [Learn about the wetland plants in my region](#)
- [Learn about all the endangered plants of the U.S.](#)
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- [Read and print abstracts about important conservation plants](#)
- [Download data or posters](#)
- [Contribute plant distribution information to PLANTS](#)
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**I Want Help**

- [Introduction to PLANTS](#)
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Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands is now available from the USDA NRCS. It is useful not only in the Caribbean region but also in tropical to warm temperate areas throughout the Americas and beyond.

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Last Modified: 01/28/2019

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## Help

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### Citation and Acknowledgements

Please cite the PLANTS Database as:

USDA, NRCS. 2019. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 28 January 2019). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

#### Taxonomic Checklist Data Contributors:

John Kartesz, Biota of North America Program, provided the foundational U.S. vascular plant checklist, state and county distribution, and the original duration, growth habit, and native status data used in PLANTS. NRCS is pleased to have significantly funded BONAP and supported the development of this critical land management information from 1990 until 2006. Luc Brouillet (Université de Montréal) and Canadian colleagues generously donated Canadian vascular plant names with distribution and attributes in 2006. Vascular data—especially native status and scientific name authorities and orthography—have since been partially revised by Mark Skinner, former NPDT employee, and will continue to be revised internally and by external specialists for the foreseeable future.

Robert Egan (U. Nebraska at Omaha) and Theodore Esslinger (North Dakota State University) provided the North American lichen checklist, which is periodically published in *The Bryologist*.

Lewis Anderson and Molly McMullen of Duke University provided the original North American moss checklist, and it was updated by Marshall Crosby of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Ray Stotler and Barbara Crandall-Stotler of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale provided the North American liverwort and hornwort checklists.

Checklist higher taxonomy was developed by Mark Skinner and Deiter Wilken.

#### Other Data Development:

##### Alternative Crops

National Plant Data Team staff maintain this information.

##### Characteristics

NRCS staff developed this information, and it was supplemented by the USGS Wetland Research Center.

##### Culturally Significant

Kat Anderson developed this information.

##### Fact Sheets & Plant Guides

Authors are indicated on each of the documents available at Fact Sheets & Plant Guides.

##### Image Gallery

Our many fine photographers are listed at the Gallery in the "Select by Artist" search box.

##### Legal Status

These lists (Introduced, Invasive, and Noxious Plants, Threatened & Endangered, and Wetland Indicator Status) are developed by various state and federal agencies.

##### Plant Materials Publications

Authors are indicated on each of the documents available at Plant Materials Publications.

##### PLANTS Identification

Stinger Guala wrote SLIKS, the digital plant key that PLANTS Identification uses, and manages development of PLANTS identification keys. We thank the data compilers acknowledged on the individual keys, especially David Bogler at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

#### Programming and Management:

The [Information Technology Center](#) leads development for NRCS plant-related computer applications. The ITC coordinates work on plant-related software at the USDA, performed by USDA Office of Enterprise Applications Services in Fort Collins Colorado.