Fraxinus pennsylvanica (Green Ash)
Conservation Status Rank Summary

Date Published: June 11, 2026

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: *Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species*

Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
Rarity					
Range Extent	2026-06-10	186913.5 km² F = 20,000-200,000 km²	3.930	MTNHP Range Maps	Value reflects the area of the species' native range in Montana, which encompasses most of the eastern half of the state. The species is also found in central and western Montana where it has been planted.
Area of Occupancy	2026-06-10	* G = 501-2,500 4-km² grid cells	4.130	MTNHP Databases, Expert Opinion	Estimated to be at least 500 occupied grid cells between the reported observations and the many unreported locations.
Number of Occurrences			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
Population Size	2026-06-10	* FG = 10,000 - 1,000,000 individuals	[3.930, 4.710]	Expert Opinion	Estimated as the actual population size in Montana is unknown.
# of Occurrences in Good Condition			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
Environmental Specificity	2025-03-01	Moderate to broad CD = Moderate to broad	-	Expert Opinion	**Factor not used in ranking.** Assessed by Scott Mincemoyer
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: **((3.93 × 1) + (4.13 × 2) + ([3.93, 4.71] × 2)) / 5 = [4.01, 4.32]**					
Trends					
Short-term Trend	2026-06-10	* G = Relatively Stable (=10% change)	0.000	Expert Opinion	Green ash has likely been stable in the recent past though actual trend data are unavailable.
Long-term Trend	2026-06-10	* U = Unknown	-		**Factor not used in ranking.** Long-term trends for Green Ash in the state are unknown. The species may have declined in some areas due to hydrologic changes, development and land use practices while increasing in other areas.
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: **((0.00 × 2)) = 0.00**					

*Values may be absent if not precisely estimated; factors may still be assessed for rank if a Factor Rating can be assigned.

Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value / Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
Threats					
Overall Threat Impact		High / B = High	1.830		None
Intrinsic Vulnerability	2025-03-01	Not intrinsically vulnerable / C = Not intrinsically vulnerable	-	Expert Opinion	**Factor not used in ranking.** Assessed by Scott Mincemoyer
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: **(1.83) = 1.83**					

Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Invasive & Other Problematic Species, Genes & Diseases	2026-06-10	High	Large	Extreme-Serious	Moderate	Emerald Ash Borer is currently known from eastern ND and SD as well as from CO and OR. It is expected to spread to Montana in the near future. Populations of Green Ash infested with Emerald Ash Borer have very high mortality rates (>90%) with very poor post-regeneration.
Other Threats	2026-06-11	Medium	Large	Moderate	High	Invasive species, particularly rhizomatous perennial grasses have invaded many sites. These grasses have been found to reduce seedling density (Lesica 2001).
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 1 - High, 1 - Medium, 0 - Low Overall Threat Impact* = High						

*See Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

Conservation Status Rank Calculation

Raw score

Rarity: ([4.01, 4.32] × 70%) + Threats: (1.83 × 30%) + Trends: (0.00) = [3.36, 3.57]

Calculated Rank: S3S4

Accepted Rank	S4
Author(s)	Scott Mincemoyer
Rank Approved By	Montana Natural Heritage Program Staff
State Rank Reason	**DRAFT: Requesting feedback on the 2026 revised rank, factors, and State Rank Reason outlined below and in the Conservation Status Rank Report.** *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* is a common and widespread tree throughout the eastern half of the state. It is also frequently planted as an ornamental across Montana, where it occasionally escapes cultivation and becomes naturalized. Although the Emerald Ash Borer has caused severe mortality in this species across much of the eastern and central United States, it has not yet been detected in Montana. However, it is expected to spread into the state in the near future, posing a significant threat to Green Ash populations. Proactive monitoring and rapid eradication of any detected Emerald Ash Borer infestations will be essential to limit potential losses. Though the species is not being negatively impacted currently, its status may change rapidly in the near future, and a re-evaluation of its conservation status will likely be needed.

Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf

Montana Field Guide Species Account:
https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=PDOLE040D0

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=PDOLE040D0

Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

Summary of Information Availability

Summary of Information Needs

Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Imme-diacy	Comments
Invasive & Other Problematic Species, Genes & Diseases - 8.1 - Invasive Non-Native/Alien Species/Diseases	2026-06-10	S. Mincemoyer	NatureServe Explorer, USDA APHIS	Large	Extreme-Serious	Moderate	Emerald Ash Borer is currently known from eastern ND and SD as well as from CO and OR. It is expected to spread to Montana in the near future. Populations of Green Ash infested with Emerald Ash Borer have very high mortality rates (>90%) with very poor post-regeneration.
Other Threats - 12.1 - Other Threat	2026-06-11	S. Mincemoyer	Expert Opinion, Lesica 2001.	Large	Moderate	High	Invasive species, particularly rhizomatous perennial grasses have invaded many sites. These grasses have been found to reduce seedling density (Lesica 2001).