



# Alberta Native Plant Council

P.O. Box 52099, Gameau Postal Outlet, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T5

## Benefits of Reporting Rare Species Information

Dear .....

Thank you for commissioning a rare plant survey for your project. We are requesting permission to submit your rare plant data to the Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS, formerly ANHIC).

ACIMS maintains a database of all plant species found within the province, including ranks of their rarity based upon available data. As more data is submitted, ranks are progressively revised to correctly reflect the rarity of species, and as a result, resources for protection can be used most wisely.

By agreeing to submit your data (rare plant forms, photos and a location map) to ACIMS, you help ensure that the most up-to-date data is available. This may assist you or others to make informed decisions during environmental assessments of future projects. It will also allow provincial and federal governments to plan effective species recovery strategies. As well, you will be contributing to the broad societal goal of understanding and protecting biodiversity. Submitting your species-at-risk information demonstrates sound corporate citizenship, and is a Best Management Practise (BMP) adopted by responsible companies.

Over the last decade, the results of rare plant surveys conducted for proposed projects, which have been reported to ACIMS, have significantly improved our knowledge about the distribution of plant species across Alberta. These studies have allowed many species to be down-listed or removed from the Tracking List, once it was determined that they were not as rare as the data originally suggested.

ACIMS welcomes suggestions on how they can make their information more useful to you. Contributing to their database will foster a mutually beneficial relationship. In addition, biologists at Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) are available to assist in recommending mitigation measures for species-at-risk.

In special circumstances, data may be submitted to ACIMS as 'Data Sensitive' so that the precise location information will not be released. For populations of rare plants on private land, permission from the landowner should also be attained.

Everyone working with rare species will benefit from the increase in knowledge that comes from sharing information. Please give permission for your rare plant data to be submitted to ACIMS. Thank you.