

ROSEBAY RHODODENDRON

Rhododendron maximum L.

Rosebay rhododendron or great-laurel is a shrub or straggling tree up to 30 feet high. It is a very rare species found locally in parts of Somerset, Franklin, Cumberland and York Counties in damp woods or near pond margins. It is listed as an endangered species in Maine as there are less than five known occurrences.

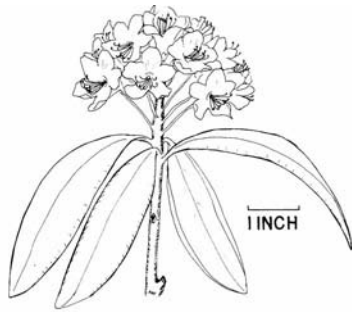
The **leaves** are evergreen, ovate to oblong, alternate, entire, 4-8 inches long, thick and leathery, with the margin frequently rolled under. They are smooth and dark green above, pale below.

The **flowers** are bell-shaped and occur in dense clusters.

They are generally white with a pinkish tinge with other variations possible.

The **fruit** is an oblong, woody capsule covered with sticky hairs. It is

borne terminally in erect clusters on stalks several times longer than the capsule. The **twigs** are hairy.



FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Cornus florida L.

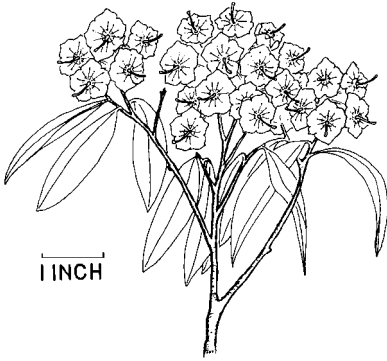
Flowering dogwood is an unusually beautiful shrub or small tree and occurs naturally only in York County. Planted specimens generally are only hardy in the southern and coastal areas of the state. It reaches a height of 12-20 feet. The **leaves** are opposite, entire, ovate to elliptic, bright green and smooth above, pale green and with hairs on the veins beneath. They are 3-6 inches long. The **flowers** are conspicuous and appear early in the spring. They are greenish white or yellowish and are arranged in dense umbels surrounded by four large, white, petal-like bracts which give the appearance of large spreading flowers. The **fruit** is a bright red, ellipsoid drupe about ½ inch long and occurs in clusters. The **twigs** are smooth, greenish, and angular. The **buds** are covered by two valve-like scales.

MOUNTAIN-LAUREL

Kalmia latifolia L.

Mountain-laurel is an erect-stemmed low shrub or small tree that grows in rocky woods or low ground. It is widely distributed, but local; absent in Somerset, Franklin, Kennebec and Androscoggin Counties. Mountain-laurel occurs rarely and is listed on the State 'watch' list.

The **leaves** are evergreen, green on both sides, elliptical, up to three inches long and one inch wide. They are flat, thick and leathery with an entire margin, and are narrowed at both ends. Arrangement is mostly alternate, sometimes opposite and rarely occurs in threes, grouped at the tip of the twig. The **flowers** are pink in color with variations possible. They are borne in erect, terminal clusters. The



fruit are globose, woody capsules borne on erect, hairy, sticky stalks that are many times longer than the diameter of the capsules. The capsules have long, persistent styles. The **twigs** are

rounded and sticky at first, but later becoming smooth.

ALTERNATE-LEAF DOGWOOD

Cornus alternifolia L. f.

Alternate-leaf or blue dogwood occurs throughout the state as a shrub or small tree up to 20 feet tall. The **leaves** are alternate, entire, elliptic-ovate, and tend to be crowded at the ends of the twigs. They are 2½ - 4½ inches long, yellowish green, smooth above, and have appressed hairiness beneath. The creamy white **flower** clusters appear in June after the leaves have developed. The **fruit** is a bluish black drupe, somewhat round, about ⅓ inch in diameter which ripens in September and October. The **twigs** are often lustrous and greenish-brown. Dead twigs become bright yellow-green in color.