



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Salix uva-ursi Pursh

Bearberry Willow

- Habitat:** Barrens and alpine areas. [Alpine or subalpine (non-forested, upland)]
- Range:** Greenland and Baffin Island, south to the mountains of Maine, New Hampshire, and New York.
- Phenology:** Flowers June - August.
- Family:** Salicaceae



Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Aids to Identification: Willows are recognized by their winter buds and flowers: their buds are covered by a single cap-like scale flowers are very small, and are borne in catkins. Identification of willows is complicated by the fact that these plants are dioecious - the staminate and carpellate flowers are borne on separate plants. This prostrate alpine willow has elliptic leaves which have a thin coating of whitish bloom on the undersurface and are serrate or crenate with gland-tipped teeth. The catkins are 1-4 cm long, and the scales are brown with black tips. Fruits are numerous, conic shaped, 3-4 mm, and glabrous (without hairs).

Ecological characteristics: In Maine this species is known to occur above treeline on rocky outcrops and gravel.

Synonyms: Former names include *Salix cutleri* Tuckerman.

Rarity of *Salix uva-ursi*

State Rank:	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
New England Rank:	Division 2	Regionally rare plant: Fewer than 20 current (seen since 1970) occurrences within New England.
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Salix uva-ursi*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Threatened	Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened. Listing criteria met: Special habitat, At edge of range, Vulnerable to human activity



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)
- Recent (1982 - present)

Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 2 town(s) in the following county(ies): Piscataquis, Somerset.

Dates of documented observations are: 1847, 1980, 1983, 1989, 1997, 2000

Reason(s) for rarity:

At southern limit of range.

Conservation considerations:

Populations could be threatened by heavy recreational (hiking) use.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 14 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species,
please contact the Natural Areas Program
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

