

JUNIPERUS COMMUNIS L.
Ground Juniper

FAMILY: Cupressaceae

HABIT: Usually a decumbent evergreen shrub, rarely arborescent.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Both varieties occur in Ohio. *Juniperus communis* var. *depressa* Pursh is easily recognized by its habit of forming cup- or saucer-shaped mats. The arborescent var. *communis* is rare and local throughout its range and may be confused with juvenile forms of *Juniperus virginiana*. *J. communis* var. *communis* has leaves all needle-like, whereas *J. virginiana* has leaves mostly scale-like.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in America to PA, WI, MN, the Rocky Mountain States, and irregularly in SC and s. IN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Clinton, Erie, Lorain, Lucas, Montgomery, Portage, and Warren counties.

HABITAT: Occurs in a wide variety of open to semi-open situations: sandy shores, dunes, gravelly banks, oak-hickory woods, pastures, and old fields.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed excellent due to its variety of habitat. Various forms of this species are cultivated as ornamentals.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: When found, an attempt should be made to determine if the occurrence is native or is an escape from ornamental plantings.

COMMENTS: The current knowledge of the range of this species in Ohio probably is accurate. It is unlikely to be overlooked or misidentified. Braun (1961) reports it from 4 additional counties: Ashtabula, Defiance, Lake, and Wayne. There is some doubt as to the indigenous nature of some of these populations.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimbürger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 p.



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