

PRUNUS PUMILA var. CUNEATA Willd.  
Sand Cherry

FAMILY: Rosaceae

SYNONYMS: *Prunus pumila* L. var. *susquehanae* (Willd.) Jaeger  
*Prunus susquehanae* Willd.

HABIT: Low, erect to ascending, diffusely branched shrub to 3 m.; flowering May, June;  
fruiting July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Only one other low sand-inhabiting *Prunus*, *P. pumila* var. *pumila*, is found in Ohio. The var. *cuneata* is distinguished from it as follows: var. *cuneata* - leaves elliptic to ovate, obtuse to subacute at apex, acute to rounded at base, pale green above, glaucous below; var. *pumila* - leaves narrowly oblanceolate, apex acute to acuminate, narrowly cuneate at base, lustrous above, pale below.

TOTAL RANGE: ME to Manitoba, s. to DE, NC, IN, and n. IL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Henry and Lucas counties.  
Pre-1960 records exist from Erie and Fulton counties.

HABITAT: Sandy, acid, dry to wet, open places: thickets, railroad grades, borders, and sand dunes.

HAZARDS: Overshading through succession; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; presumed only fair due to somewhat limited habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature fruiting branchlets; record growth habit carefully; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: There is considerable taxonomic confusion concerning this species. It is treated by some authors as a variety of *P. pumila*, but with two different varietal names and by others as a species (see Synonyms).

This shrub easily can be found in the limited area of the Oak Openings of northwest Ohio, but the populations often consist of few individuals and are isolated from each other. The state range of this species probably is accurately known.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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