

RIBES TRISTE Pallas  
Swamp Red Currant

FAMILY: Grossulariaceae

SYNONYMS: *Ribes rubrum* L. var. *propinquum* (Turcz.) Trautv. & Meyer

HABIT: Low, spreading or reclining, unarmed shrub to 1 m; flowers May-June, fruits July-Aug.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *R. glandulosum* and *R. triste* are the only Ohio currants without prickles and with a reclining or prostrate growth habit. *R. glandulosum* has glandular berries and a foetid odor, whereas *R. triste* has smooth berries and no noticeable odor.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to AK, s. to NJ, MI, WI, MN, and Alberta; n. Asia.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula and Geauga counties.

HABITAT: Swampy woods, wet hollows, seepy slopes, alder thickets.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of wetland habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification; note the growth habit.

COMMENTS: This low shrub is nondescript unless in fruit and may be easily overlooked. It should be sought in suitable habitat throughout northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Billington, C. 1949. The shrubs of Michigan. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 20. Bloomfield Hills, MI. 339 pp.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

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

Spongberg, S.S. 1972. The genera of the Saxifragaceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arnold Arbor. 53: 409-498.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 3/1984 Allison W. Cusick  
Revised: 4/1993 Greg Schneider