

SYMPHORICARPOS ALBUS (L.) Blake var. ALBUS  
Snowberry

FAMILY: Caprifoliaceae

HABIT: Low bushy shrub, 2-8 dm.; flowering May-July; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This variety bears close resemblance to *Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus* and *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*. It may also be mistaken for *Ligustrum* spp. *S. albus* var. *albus* has terminal and/or axillary clusters of small (5-8 mm.) pink flowers, large white berries, young twigs pubescent, and leaves pilose beneath. *S. albus* var. *laevigatus* has terminal and/or axillary clusters of small (5-8 mm.), pink flowers, large white berries, young twigs glabrous, and leaves glabrous beneath. *S. orbiculatus* has terminal and axillary clusters of smaller (3-4 mm.) greenish or purplish flowers and red or coral berries. *Ligustrum* spp. have terminal cymes of small white flowers and purplish berries.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to s. AK, s. to VA, MI, MN, and CA.

STATE RANGE: There is a post-1960 record from Ottawa county. Pre-1960 records occur from Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Franklin, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Medina, Summit, and Wood counties (Braun, 1961). Some of these records may be from adventive plants.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1987: Endangered, 1988 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Dry or rocky soil, margins of northern hardwood forests, wooded ravines, second growth woods. In Ohio, this variety is reported from limestone ridges and gravelly crests of rocky hills.

HAZARDS: Browsing by deer, overshading in late successional stages.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; presumed poor judging from the drastic decline in reported populations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is necessary for accurate identification.

COMMENTS: Although this variety is definitely native to Ohio, it also can spread from plantings. Populations should be studied to determine their origin. Because this taxon and the var. *laevigatus* are easily confused, it may be overlooked. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus* is a western shrub ranging from se. AL to CA and e. MI. This variety is commonly planted as an ornamental in Ohio and is a common escape. Some Ohio records may represent this non-indigenous variety.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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