

CORNUS CANADENSIS L.
Bunchberry

FAMILY: Cornaceae.

HABIT: Creeping, perennial subterranean rhizome with herbaceous stems 0.5-3 dm. high; flowering May-July; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Cornus canadensis* is not similar to any other member of the genus in Ohio. However, in a vegetative state its clusters of whorled leaves might be confused with non-flowering material of Indian Cucumber, (*Medeola virginiana*), or Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*).

TOTAL RANGE: Greenland to AK and e. Asia, s. to NJ, PA, IN, and MN, and in the mountains to MD, WV, VA, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage, and Williams counties. Pre-1980 records are from Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hocking, Lake, Licking, Stark, and Summit counties.

HABITAT: Moist acidic woods and bogs. According to Braun (1950), it is an indicator of the hemlock-white pine-northern hardwood forest and its outlying areas.

HAZARDS: Browsing by deer; digging by wildflower enthusiasts; opening of the canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor due to the limited habitat in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Avoid over-collecting. If collecting is essential, then care should be taken not to uproot the buried rhizome. Flowering or fruiting material is necessary for identification.

COMMENTS: The general range of this species may be accurately known in Ohio. Additional localities should be sought throughout northeastern Ohio.

According to Terri (1968), unusually cold winters prohibit flowering.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1950. The deciduous forests of eastern North America. The Blakiston Co., Philadelphia, PA. 596 p.

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

Terri, J.A. 1968. Developmental variability of *Cornus canadensis* in northern New England. *Rhodora* 70: 161-175.

Wagner, W.H., Jr. 1975. A bunchberry, "Last Rose of Summer." Mich. Bot. 14: 201-202.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 11/1983 Barbara K. Andreas