

PRUNUS PUMILA var. PUMILA L.  
Great Lakes Sand Cherry

FAMILY: Rosaceae

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

SIMILAR SPECIES: Only one other low, sand inhabiting Prunus--*P. susquehanae*-- is found in Ohio. *P. pumila* is distinguished from it as follows:

*P. pumila* - leaves narrowly oblanceolate with apex acute to acuminate and base narrowly cuneate, lustrous above, pale below.

*P. susquehanae* - leaves elliptic to ovate, obtuse to subacute at apex, acute to rounded at base, pale green above, glaucous below.

TOTAL RANGE: Endemic to the Great Lakes regions from Lake Ontario w. to n. MN and no. to about 52° latitude.

STATE RANGE: ERIE CO.: Cedar Point, 31 June 1899, W.A. Kellerman & R.F. Griggs (OS); Cedar Point, 21 Sept. 1900, W.A. Kellerman (OS); only one plant, Cedar Point, 10 July 1902, E.L. Moseley n.d., W.A. Kellerman (OS). HAMILTON CO.: Terrace Park, dry gravel soil, 9 Aug. 1917, E.L. Braun (CINC, OS). The Erie County collections all are from the general locality. Jennings (1908) describes this site. The Hamilton County population is described by Braun (1961, p. 222): "adventive... it grew in gravelly soil of an abandoned gravel pit near a railroad.

STATE STATUS:

HABITAT: Sand dunes, sandy or calcareous, rocky shores.

HAZARDS: Mechanical disturbance of the beaches by off-road vehicles, etc., sudden alterations in water level, overshadowing through succession, soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, presumed poor due to limited and limiting habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature fruiting branchlets. Record growth habit carefully.

COMMENTS: The habitat for this Great Lakes endemic is virtually non-existent in Ohio today. The site of the only indigenous population has been altered beyond recognition. Possibly it possibly may be confused with *Prunus susquehanae* (see Similar Species) and thus overlooked, but this seems unlikely. This species probably is truly extirpated from the Ohio flora.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Fernald, M.L. 1923. The identity of sand cherries in eastern North America. *Rhodora* 25: 69-74.

Jennings (1908). An ecological classification of the vegetation of Cedar Point. *Ohio Naturalist* 8: 291-340.

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



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