

Roundleaf Serviceberry

Amelanchier sanguinea

Description

The roundleaf serviceberry is a shrub or small tree. The leaves are alternate, simple, deciduous, and coarsely-toothed on the margin. The flowers, which have five white petals, are grouped in small clusters that appear from late April to mid May. The fruits resemble miniature apples and are reddish to purple when mature. Identification of this species must be done with care because of its resemblance to other serviceberries.

Distribution & Habitat

The species grows on dry rocky slopes, cliffs, and outcrops in scrubby woods, thickets, and exposed locations. The roundleaf serviceberry is distributed in the more northern and cooler portions of eastern North America. It is known historically and currently from several northern or mountainous counties in Pennsylvania.

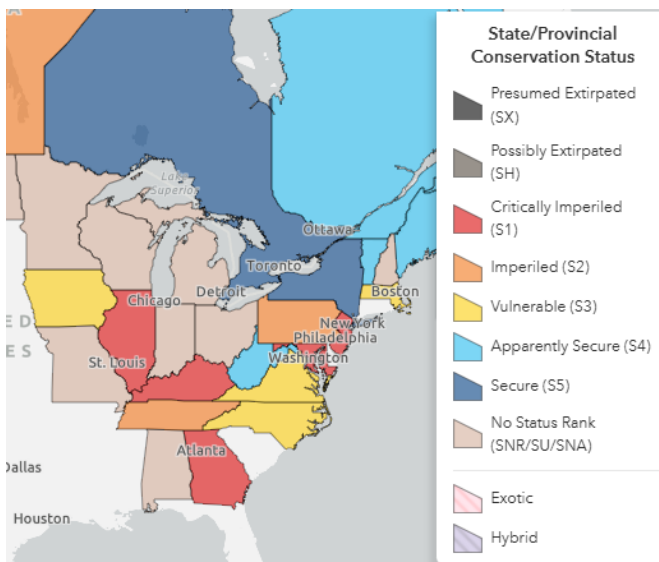
Current State Status

The roundleaf serviceberry has been given a status of Endangered on the Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania list by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, based on the relatively few historical and recent records that have been documented in the state.



North American State/Province Conservation Status

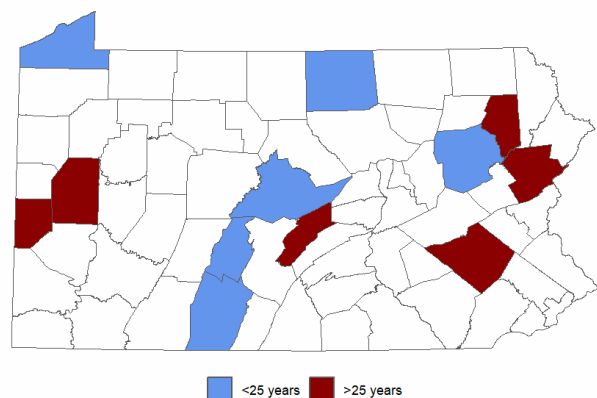
Map by NatureServe 2025



Conservation Considerations

The species is unlikely to be noticed except during the brief flowering period in the spring of the year. More field work is needed in order to determine if this status is justified. The plant may have been overlooked because its habitat is not always easily accessible and because of difficulty of identification.

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NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S2 – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2025.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T. A. Block. 2000. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

