



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

www.mass.gov/nhesp

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Mountain Cranberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* L.

State Status: **Endangered**
Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Mountain Cranberry is an evergreen dwarf shrub with erect, slender, branching stems, 15 cm. high. The branchlets are greenish-brown to reddish, nearly smooth or with short curly white hairs. The leaves are alternate, oval-shaped with a rounded tip, a dark green color, and measure 2 cm. long. They are pale and black-dotted underneath. The flower is bell-shaped, 4-5 lobed, and a white or pinkish color. The fruit is an edible dark red berry, 8-10 mm. long. The flowering season is June-July.

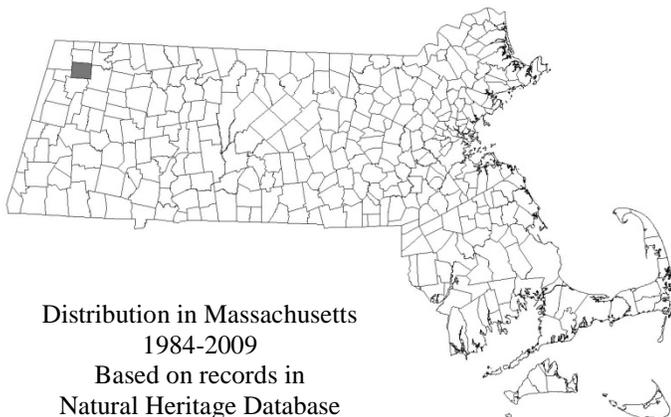
HABITAT: This species favors dry, peaty acid soil, in rocky or sandy clearings at high elevations.

RANGE: Mountain Cranberry is distributed from Greenland to British Columbia, south to the Great Lakes region, and the high mountains of northern New England.



Photo: Bryan Connolly, NHESP

POPULATION STATUS: Mountain Cranberry is currently listed as an Endangered species in the state of Massachusetts. Only one occurrence of this species has been documented recently, on Mt. Greylock; historically, two occurrences were reported, but are still unverified. The primary cause of rarity in Massachusetts is the very limited amount of habitat in the state. As with many alpine or subalpine plants, Mountain Cranberry is quite susceptible to trampling on mountain summits, but at present this is not a problem in Massachusetts.



Updated 2019

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

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