



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

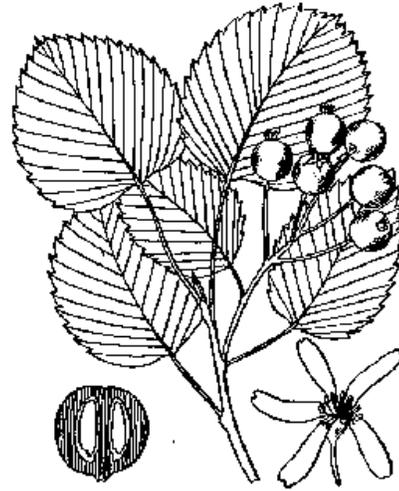
Round-leaved Shadbush *Amelanchier sanguinea* (Pursh) DC.

State Status: **Special Concern**

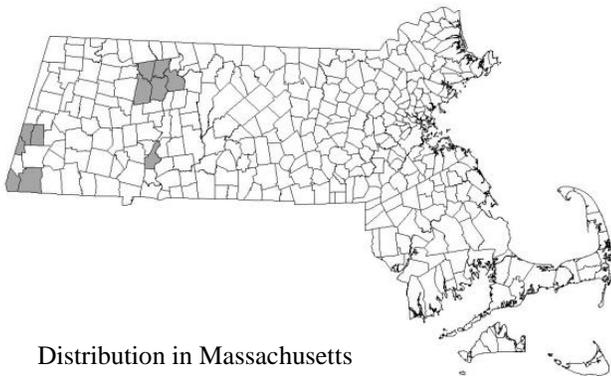
Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Round-leaved Shadbush (*Amelanchier sanguinea*) is a deciduous, straggling or arching slender shrub which grows singly or few-together in a clump on calcareous or sub-acid rocky ledges, outcrops and summits. A member of the Rosaceae, it has racemes of white flowers that bloom in late April and early May.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The leaves of Round-leaved Shadbush are alternate, coarsely-toothed and strongly-veined, with the straight, primary veins unbranched or few-branched. The hypanthium, or cup-shaped structure below the sepals, is very broad (5 mm diameter) and open-saucer shaped compared to other shadbushes. The ovary summits of the flower are densely woolly-pubescent. The racemes of many white flowers are curved or loose-drooping; the petals are narrow and elongate (11-15 mm long).



Britton, N.L. and A. Brown. 1970. *An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada*. Second Edition. Dover Publications, Inc. New York.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1982-2007

Based on records in the
Natural Heritage Database

SIMILAR SPECIES: Running Shadbush (*A. spicata*; syn. *A. stolonifera*) has frequently been confused with the Round-leaved Shadbush in Massachusetts. Running Shadbush may be distinguished from Round-leaved Shadbush by its colonial growth habit, finely-toothed leaves with curving, many-branched primary veins, narrower hypanthium (3-4 mm), and compact, densely-flowered racemes of flowers with shorter (7-9 mm long), obovate petals.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS: Round-leaved Shadbush inhabits open to partly shaded sites in Massachusetts on riverside outcrops and rocky summits. Associated species include Michaux's Sandwort (*Minuartia michauxii*; Threatened), Mountain Alder

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

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; www.mass.gov/dfw

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(*Alnus viridis* ssp. *crispa*; Threatened), and other shadbushes such as Running Shadbush (*A. spicata*).

THREATS: Threats to Round-leaved Shadbush include changes alterations to flood regimes along rivers, which may periods of inundation periods, physical scour and subsequent succession. Competition from non-native species along river shores is also a concern. Trampling and soil compaction by hikers may threaten summit populations.

RANGE: The range of Round-leaved Shadbush extends from southern Quebec, west to Ontario, south to western New England, along the mountains to Georgia, and west to northern Ohio, Wisconsin, and Southern Iowa.

POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Round-leaved Shadbush is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as Special Concern. All listed species are legally protected from killing, collection, possession, or sale, and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. Round-leaved Shadbush is currently vouchered from only Franklin County, and is historically vouchered from Berkshire, Worcester, and Middlesex counties.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: As with many rare species, the exact management needs of Round-leaved Shadbush are not known. Protecting the habitat of this species requires maintaining open or low-density over-story vegetation. At riverside ledges, flooding regimes should be allowed to continue in order to stay shoreline succession. Removal of invasive species along river shores may be appropriate if introductions are detected. For summit populations, rerouting trails to avoid direct hiker impacts to Round-leaved Shadbush may be desirable. To avoid inadvertent harm to rare plants, all active management of rare plant populations (including invasive species removal) should be planned in consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

FLOWERING TIME IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Updated 2019

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