



## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

## Bartram's Shadbush *Amelanchier bartramiana* (Tausch) Roemer

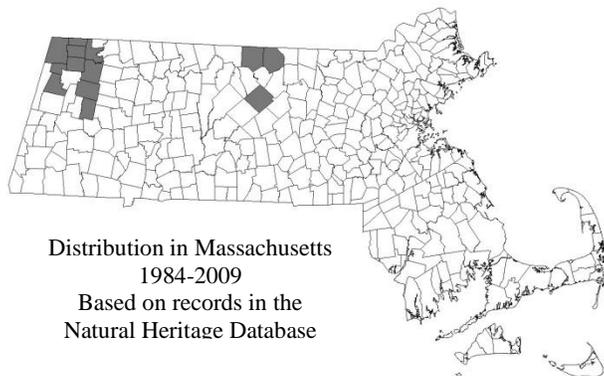
State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** Bartram's Shadbush is a slender few-stemmed shrub approximately 1½-8 feet (.5-2.5 m.) tall, occurring singly or sometimes forming open clumps. The branchlets are smooth and purplish-gray in color. The dull green leaves are serrate, smooth, oblong-elliptic, and 1-2 inches (305 cm.) long. Flowers are solitary or 2-3; petals are white and ¼-1/2 inch (6-10 mm.) long. The edible fruit is a dark purple color.

### SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Shadbushes can be difficult to identify and two or three species are often found in the same vicinity. Bartram's Shadbush can be easily distinguished by its few flowers per cluster (only one to three) and the leaf shape that is tapered to each end, neither cordate nor rounded-elliptic at the base. Leaf tips are more tapered than in our other Shadbushes. This shrub thrives in mountain thickets, near sphagnum bogs and on steep wooded rocky slopes. Co-occurring species include *Betula alleghaniensis* (Yellow Birch), *Picea rubra* (Red Spruce), *Sorbus americana* and *S. decora* (mountain-ashes), and *Ilex mucronata* (Mountain Holly).



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1984-2009  
Based on records in the  
Natural Heritage Database



Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*. The New York Botanical Garden.

**RANGE:** Bartram's Shadbush ranges from Labrador, west to the Thunder Bay District of Ontario, and south to Massachusetts, northern Pennsylvania, northern Michigan, and northern Minnesota.

**POPULATION STATUS:** This species is considered Threatened in Massachusetts. Currently (1990 to 2014), thirteen occurrences have been verified; four other historical occurrences were recorded prior to that time. Most of the populations in Massachusetts are small and consist of scattered plants. The fact that Bartram's Shadbush is near the southern limit of its range in Massachusetts is a contributing factor to its rarity in the state. It has also been impacted by clearing of mountain summits.

Updated 2015

**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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