

Swamp Dog-hobble

Leucothoe racemosa

Description

Swamp Dog-hobble is a deciduous shrub or small tree that may grow up to 9 feet (3 m) in height. The leaves are alternately arranged, sharply toothed on the margin, egg-shaped to elliptic, pointed at the tip, usually more-or-less hairy on the veins below, and typically 1 to 3 inches (3-8 cm) in length. The white flowers, appearing in May or June, are grouped in slender, elongate clusters, with all the flowers tending to point to the same side. The individual flowers, about 3/8 inch (7-9 mm) in length, have a tubular or bell shape. The fruit is a globe-shaped, many-seeded capsule.

Distribution & Habitat

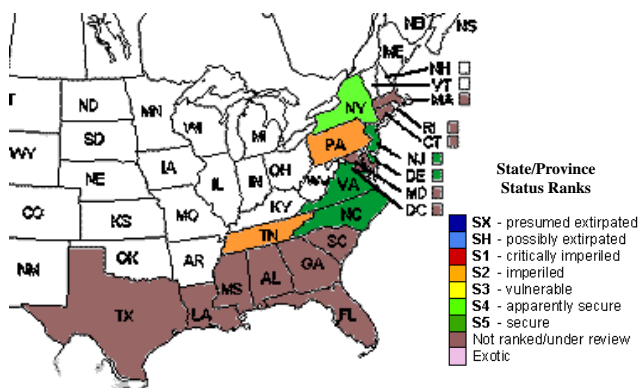
Swamp Dog-hobble has a mostly coastal range from New York west and south into Texas and Florida. In Pennsylvania, it represents a southerly species and has been documented historically in numerous southeastern counties. It grows in wetlands, particularly swamps, wet thickets, and the margins of ponds and streams.



Photo source: PNHP

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014



Conservation Considerations

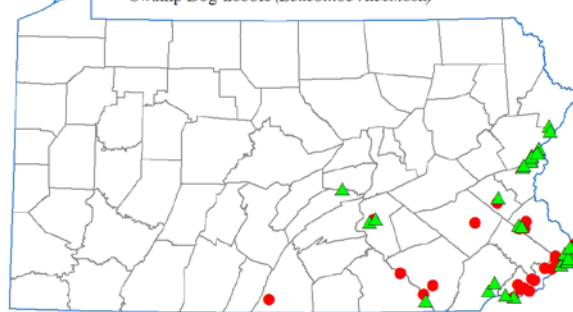
The viability of known populations of Swamp Dog-hobble and its habitat may be enhanced by establishing buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands

Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey considers Swamp Dog-hobble to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been recently documented and the wetland habitat. It has been assigned a rarity status of Undetermined and a PABS suggested rarity status of Threatened. About 30 populations are known from the state.

Pennsylvania Distribution

Swamp Dog-hobble (*Leucothoe racemosa*)



▲ records since 1980 ● records pre-1980
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally Secure; S2S3– Imperiled to Vulnerable in Pennsylvania

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2014.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program