



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Chimaphila maculata (L.) Pursh

Spotted Wintergreen

Habitat: Dry woods. [Conifer forest (forest, upland); Hardwood to mixed forest (forest, upland)]

Range: Southern Maine to southern Ontario, south to Georgia, and west to Alabama.

Phenology: Flowers June - August.

Family: Ericaceae

Aids to Identification: A perennial herb, 7-20 cm in height, with toothed, lanceolate, whorled leaves. The dark green leaves are mottled with white along the veins. Its nodding flowers are white or pinkish, 12-20mm wide.

Ecological characteristics: In Maine, this species tends to inhabit mixed woods with full to partial canopy on slight slopes. All Maine populations of spotted wintergreen are small and apparently vulnerable.

Synonyms:



Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Rarity of *Chimaphila maculata*

State Rank:	S2	Imperiled in Maine because of rarity or vulnerability to further decline.
New England Rank:	None	
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Chimaphila maculata*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Endangered	
Proposed State Status:	Endangered	Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future; or federally listed as Endangered. Listing criteria met: Few individuals, At edge of range, Declining populations, Vulnerable to human activity

Known Distribution in Maine:



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)
- Recent (1982 - present)

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 13 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Franklin, Oxford, Somerset, York.

Dates of documented observations are: 1975, 1976, 1977, 1984 (2), 1985, 1987 (2), 1989 (2), 1991, 1996 (2), 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002

Reason(s) for rarity:

At northern limit of range.

Conservation considerations:

This plant is restricted statewide to southern Maine, and known populations are vulnerable to conversion of their habitat to residential or commercial use. Effects of logging are unknown, but partial removal of the canopy would be less likely to adversely affect the plant than complete removal. Popular for terraria or shady wildflower gardens: Maine populations are all small, and digging any plants could lead to the disappearance of the natural population. Wild plants need to be left undisturbed.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 07 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species, please contact the Natural Areas Program
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

