

# Pitch Pine Bog

**State Rank S2**

## Community Description

Pitch pine is the dominant tree in these sparsely forested peatlands. The shrub layer likewise indicates the more southerly affinities of this type, with maleberry and highbush blueberry common along with the standard bog shrubs of huckleberry and mountain holly. The herb layer may be dense evergreen heath shrubs, especially leatherleaf, or it may be more sparse peat mosses covering the ground.

## Soil and Site Characteristics

Sites occur in shallow basins on the coastal plain; typical acidic bog conditions predominate. Peat may be shallow, over sandy mineral soil, or deep (>50 cm) as is typical of peatlands. In some, but not all, cases these types are adjacent to pitch pine uplands.

## Diagnostics

This is an organic soil wetland with abundant peat and low heath shrubs, sparsely forested by pitch pine.



Sheep Laurel

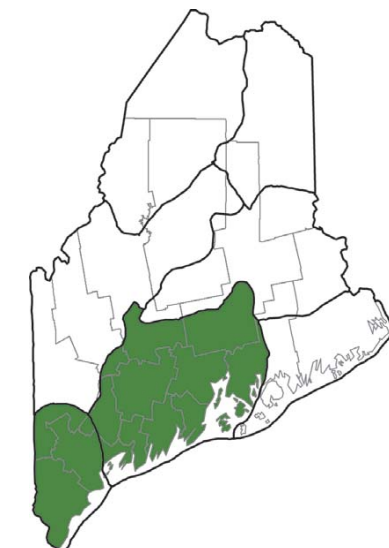
## Similar Types

Several other peatland community types have very similar dwarf shrub, herb, and bryophyte composition, especially Spruce - Larch Wooded Bog, Sheep Laurel Dwarf Shrub Bog, and Leatherleaf Boggy Fen. The predominance of pitch pine in the tree layer makes this type unique in Maine.

## Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

Strong development pressures in southern Maine may threaten unprotected sites and degrade their landscape surroundings. Four sites in southern Maine are in public or private conservation ownership.

## Location Map



■ Community is known from this Ecoregion  
 ■ Community may occur in this Ecoregion  
 ■ Bailey's Ecoregion  
 ■ County



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Birds associated with this community include wetland species such as the common yellowthroat and northern waterthrush.

## Distribution

Along the north Atlantic coastal plain (Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province) to southern and midcoast Maine.

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch, mostly 5-40 acres.



Large Cranberry

## Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

### Canopy

Pitch pine

### Sapling/shrub

Black chokeberry  
 Black huckleberry\*  
 Highbush blueberry\*  
 Maleberry  
 Mountain holly  
 Speckled alder

### Dwarf Shrub

Large cranberry  
 Leatherleaf\*  
 Sheep laurel

### Herb

Bracken fern  
 Cinnamon fern  
 Three-seeded sedge  
 Wild sarsaparilla

### Bryoid

*Sphagnum girgensohnii*\*

## Associated Rare Plants

Smooth winterberry holly

## Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Brownfield Bog Wildlife Management Area – Oxford Co.
- East of Little River, Rachel Carson National Wildlife – York Co.
- Saco Heath Preserve – York Co.
- Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area – Cumberland Co.