

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

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Maine Natural Areas Program



Salix candida Fluegge ex Willd.

Hoary Willow

- [State Rank \(rank.htm\)](#): S1
- [Global Rank \(rank.htm\)](#): G5
- [State Status \(rank.htm\)](#): Endangered

Habitat: Calcareous bogs and thickets. [Forested wetland; Open wetland, not coastal nor rivershore (non-forested, wetland); Non-tidal rivershore (non-forested, seasonally wet)]

Range: Newfoundland to Athabasca, Wyoming, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa and South Dakota.



Aids to Identification: Willows are recognized by their winter buds and flowers. Their buds are covered by a single, cap-like scale, and their flowers are very small and are borne in catkins. Identification of willows is complicated by the fact that these plants are dioecious - the staminate and carpellate flowers are borne on separate plants. The hoary willow is a shrub that grows in clumps, 1-3 m high and has oblong, tapering leaves 5-10 cm long, greyish green and covered beneath with dense white woolly hairs. (The leaves resemble those of garden sage, hence its other common name of sage willow.) Often confused with *S. pellita*, a species of northern and western Maine rivershores. *S. pellita* usually has glabrous twigs, lacks stipules, and leaves with semi-lustrous pubescence. *S. candida* usually has tomentose twigs, has small stipules, and leaves with dull pubescence.



Ecological characteristics: All occurrences in Maine have been from circumneutral fens.

Phenology: Flowers in May.

Family: Salicaceae

Synonyms: *Salix candida* Fluegge ex Willd. var. *denudata* Anderss.; *Salix candida* Fluegge ex Willd. var.

tomentosa Anderss.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 5 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook.

Reason(s) for rarity: Natural scarcity of suitable (i.e. calcareous) habitat.

Conservation considerations: The single currently known Maine population is not particularly vulnerable to human activities. Although a small and very local population, it has persisted for decades at least.

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