



ALERT: Stay up to date on [Maine's COVID-19 Response](#)

About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

Maine Natural Areas Program

Pyrola minor L.

Lesser Wintergreen

- [State Rank](#): S2
- [Global Rank](#): G5
- [State Status](#): Special Concern

Habitat: Moist woods. [Conifer forest (forest, upland)]

Range: Circumboreal. South to the higher mountains of New England and northern Michigan.



Aids to Identification: This small wintergreen grows to a height of only 5-15 cm. Like other members of the genus *Pyrola*, this herb has no true stem, but rather a flower stalk upon which grows a raceme of white flowers. Lesser wintergreen can be distinguished from closely related species by two characteristics: the flowers grow on all sides of the stalk, rather than just being one-sided; and

the style of each flower is straight and does not protrude beyond the end of the petals. The nearly basal leaves of *P. minor* are round-oblong and 2-4 cm long.

Ecological characteristics: In Maine, this plant is found in cool, moist woods, usually near streams or riverbanks.

Phenology: Flowers June - August.

Family: Ericaceae

Synonyms: *Braxilia minor* (L.) House; *Erxlebenia minor* (L.) Rydb.; *Pyrola minor* var. *parviflora* Boivin.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 17 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Franklin, Piscataquis, Somerset

Reason(s) for rarity: At southern limit of range.

Conservation considerations: Unknown. Complete canopy removal would more likely harm the populations than would partial canopy removal.



Credits



Copyright © 2013
All rights reserved.

Information

- [Maine.gov](#)
- [Site Policies](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Comments/Questions](#)
- [Jobs @ DACE](#)
- [Grants & Loans](#)
- [Educational Resources](#)

Connect with Us

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Email/SMS Updates](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Event & Meeting Calendar](#)
- [See more social media...](#)

Support DACE Programs

- [Maine State Park Passes](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Specialty License Plates](#)
- [Outdoor Heritage Fund Lottery Ticket](#)
- [Donations & More](#)

Contact

Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333
[More Locations](#)

Phone: (207) 287-3200
Fax: (207) 287-2400
TTY Users Call Maine Relay
711
DACE@Maine.gov