

American cancer-root

Vulnerable species in Quebec

Conopholis americana

5 to 25 cm



CHARACTERISTICS

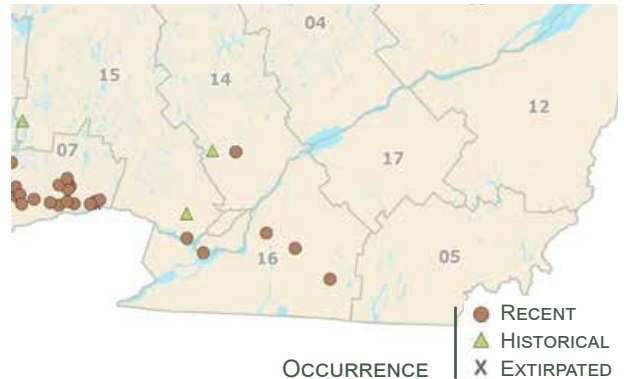
- Plant attached to and totally dependent on red oak roots.
- Plant without chlorophyll (yellow or brown color).
- In the fall, resembles an old white pine cone.



OBSERVATION PERIODS

IDENTIFICATION	early summer
FLOWERS	late May to mid-July
FRUITS	starting early summer

DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



HABITAT

Several types of stand with red oak in association with other species such as sugar maple, beech, white pine and even white cedar.

Unlike its host, American cancer-root prefers deep, moist soil to develop.



MAIN THREATS

- Harvesting the oak trees to which they are attached.
- Less frequent oak stands.
- Loss of habitat (residential development).

MANAGE YOUR FOREST WHILE PROTECTING AT-RISK FLORA

Your woodlot contributes to the protection of forest species in precarious situations. It is often preferable to avoid forest management interventions in their habitats. If such activities must be carried out, the protection of these species requires the following precautions:

STEP 1: IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THE SPECIES

Onsite, during the appropriate identification period, locate all the plants of the species (or have this done by a competent person). Then outline the zones where they are found (occupied zones) as well as the surrounding buffer zone.



STEP 2: PROTECT THE PLANTS

This species is protected under Quebec's Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species. It is forbidden to destroy, mutilate or harvest its plants or parts of them (art. 16).



STEP 3: AVOID MAJOR DISTURBANCES in the occupied and buffer zones

- Ø Landing (wood piling) areas
- Ø Forest road construction
- Ø Forest drainage
- Ø Clearcuts
- Ø Scarification of the forest floor



STEP 4 : ADAPT PRACTICES BASED ON SPECIES SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity to opening of the forest canopy

Low to moderate

Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

Low to moderate

Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

Low to moderate

IN THE OCCUPIED AND BUFFER ZONES

- Opening of the canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning to maintain shade and its beneficial effect on soil moisture.
- Avoid altering drainage and minimize soil compaction: use an adapted skidder or forwarder and plan logging trails on soils with adequate load-bearing capacity.

IN THE OCCUPIED ZONE

- Carry out forest operations only on frozen ground during the winter.
- Avoid creating skidding trails unless a thick snow cover protects the ground.
- Avoid leaving logging residues (branches, etc.).



If the plant cannot be identified or located, apply the protection measures to the entire forest stand.

Advise forest workers about plant locations as well as protection measures to apply.

This fact sheet was developed through the integration of scientific elements and discussions between experts from the MRNF and the MELCCFP. The recommendations may evolve as new knowledge becomes available. For references, please visit afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies.