

Rock elm

Ulmus thomasii

Threatened species in Quebec



CHARACTERISTICS

- Gnarled main branches, covered with corky ridges.
- Scrubby-looking crown.



OBSERVATION PERIODS

Identification: at all times

Flowers: late April - May

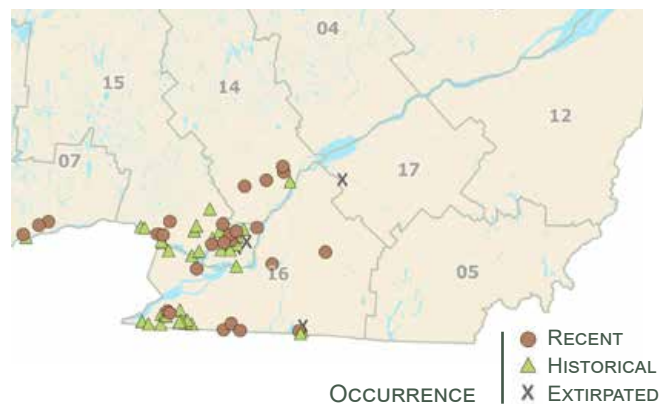
Fruits: May



HABITAT

- Open, dry, rocky, limestone sites, mounds, crests, small escarpments, rock fences, forest edges, roadsides, clearings in sugar maple groves.

DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



MAIN THREATS

- Habitat loss (agriculture, quarries, housing).
- Accidental cutting of individuals or forest practices unfavorable to species regeneration.
- Dutch elm disease.

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

In the occupied and buffer zones, opening of the forest canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning.



Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

Low to moderate

In the occupied and buffer zones, avoid altering drainage and minimize soil compaction: use an adapted skidder or forwarder and plan logging trails on soils with adequate load-bearing capacity.



Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

High

In the occupied zone, carry out forestry operations during the winter on frozen ground and, if possible, when snow cover is sufficient to limit root damage and soil compaction.



In the presence of young cork elm regeneration, avoid the use of machinery unless you can protect it.

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.