

May-apple

Podophyllum peltatum

Max. 60 cm



Threatened species in Quebec



CHARACTERISTICS

- Very rare plant, emerging early in spring (before others).
- Broad leaves (30 cm diameter), deeply lobed, pale green.
- Single flower, attached underneath the two leaves at their intersection.
- Fleshy, lemon-shaped, yellowish, sometimes brownish fruit.



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OBSERVATION PERIODS

Identification: spring

Flowers: May to early June

Fruits: July to August

HABITAT

Rich forests:

- Sugar or silver maple stands (in shade)

The species seems to have been introduced by First Nations people for medicinal purpose, explaining its distribution along the St. Lawrence River.



MAIN THREATS

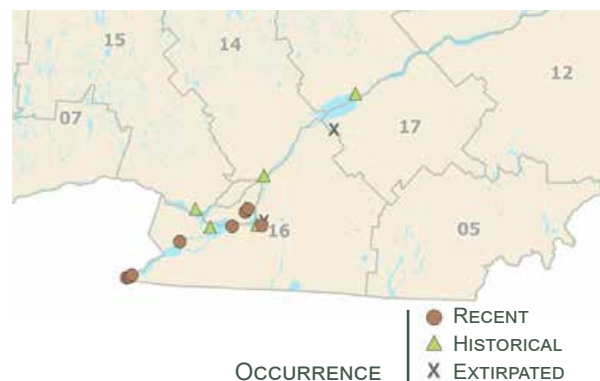
- Destruction and disturbance of its habitat, located in areas of extreme development pressure.
- Trampling (the plant grows near trails and is therefore susceptible).



LIMITS TO EXPANSION IN QUEBEC

- Climate.
- Low success rate of sexual reproduction.

DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



The excessively small number of occurrences of the species in Quebec and its small, low-viability local populations accentuate its precarious status at the northern limit of its range.

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)

Given the extreme rarity of this species and its threatened status, avoid carrying out any kind of forestry operations at any time of year in the **occupied zone**.

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 buffer zone (and even in the **occupied zone** if carried out outside this zone without causing trees to fall in it), opening of the forest canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning to maintain shade and its beneficial effect on soil moisture.



Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

Low to moderate

In the buffer zone, 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

Low to moderate

In the occupied zone, in addition to avoiding all forestry operations (step 2), 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.

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