# APPENDIX N – FACT SHEETS FOR SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES

# American Holly *Ilex opaca*

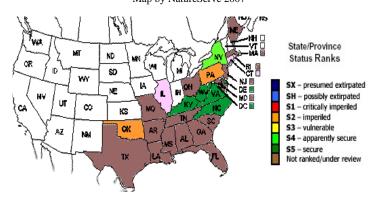
#### **Description**

American holly is an evergreen shrub or small tree that grows to 50 feet (15 meters) in height. It can be easily recognized in any season by its alternately arranged, thickish, evergreen leaves that have a sharp spine at the tip and additional spines along the margin. The flowers, appearing in May and June, are unisexual, so that the familiar berry-like fruit, red at maturity, can be found only on female plants.

#### **Distribution & Habitat**

American holly has a distribution from coastal New England south and west into Florida and Texas. In Pennsylvania, it is near the northern end of its range, and occurs mostly in the southeastern counties. The species grows on wooded slopes and streambanks. It has also been grown as an ornamental, particularly in the southeastern counties, and may escape locally to woodlots, thickets, and fencerows.

# North American State/Province Conservation Status Map by NatureServe 2007



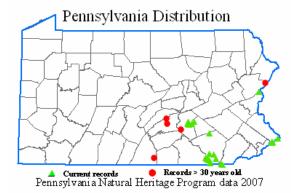
#### **Conservation Considerations**

The conservation of American holly in Pennsylvania has concentrated on protecting populations that are believed to be indigenous and that represent native genotypes. Occurrences of the species that have resulted from escapes from plantings are of uncertain genetic origin and are considered to be of much lower conservation significance. As a woodland species, proper forest management and control of invasive species are important for the long term viability of American holly. Gathering of the branches of wild trees for winter decoration should be discouraged.

Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

#### **Current State Status**

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers American holly to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few native occurrences that have been recently confirmed. The species has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Threatened.



#### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S2 – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

#### References



- NatureServe. 2006. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1.
   NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <a href="http://www.natureserve.org/explorer">http://www.natureserve.org/explorer</a>.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

## **Netted Chainfern** Woodwardia areolata

#### **Description**

Netted chainfern grows from 1½ to 2½ feet (5-8 dm) in height, and may form small colonies due to the presence of creeping underground stems. The leaves are easily distinguishable into vegetative and fertile types. The vegetative leaves have a typical fern-like appearance, being green, flattened, and divided into 7 to 12 very deep lobes (or distinct leaflets on the lower part of the leaf) that are not further subdivided into smaller lobes. The leaf veins are conspicuous and have a net-like or chain-like arrangement, as the common name implies. The fertile leaves of netted chainfern are dark colored, much narrower, not flattened and leaf-like, and have sporeproducing structures on their underside. The vegetative leaf of this species resembles the leaf of the sensitive fern (Onoclea sensibilis), a common species in Pennsylvania, but the lobes in netted chainfern tend to be alternately arranged along the leaf stalk while the lobes of sensitive fern tend to be oppositely arranged.



Photo source: Andrew Strassman (PNHP)

#### **Distribution & Habitat**

Netted chainfern has a distribution centered mainly on the Atlantic coastal plain from Nova Scotia south and west into Texas and Florida. In Pennsylvania, the species has been documented historically in scattered counties, particularly in the Delaware River drainage. It grows in swamps, seepages, wet woods, boggy wetlands and along the margins of streamlets.

#### North American State/Province Conservation Status Map by NatureServe 2007



#### **Conservation Considerations**

The viability of populations of netted chainfern and its habitat may be enhanced by establishing buffers around wetlands, controlling invasive species, and protecting the natural hydrology surrounding wetlands.

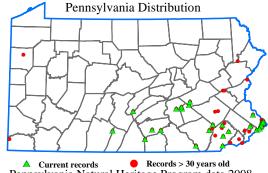
#### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Secure globally; S2 – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

#### References

#### **Current State Status**

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers netted chainfern to be a species of special concern, based on the relatively few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and the wetland habitat. It has no PA legal rarity status, but has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Threatened by PABS. About 30 populations are currently known from the state.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2008

- NatureServe. 2006. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at http://www.natureserve.org/explorer.
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2007.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

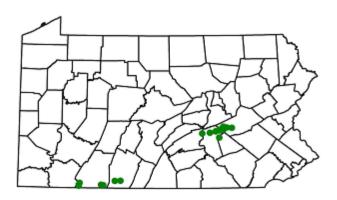


### Minniebush Menziesia pilosa

### Description

More common in the southern Appalachians, minniebush (*Menziesia pilosa*), a relative of the blueberry, has a limited distribution in Pennsylvania. Though historically reported from a few counties in western Pennsylvania, this shrub is currently known to occur only in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties.

#### Pennsylvania Map



Map produced from the Pennsylvania Flora Database, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania based on herbarium

Map Source: Pennsylvania Science Office

### **Photos**

#### In bloom

#### **Common view**





Menziesia pilosa

Gary P. Fleming

Photo Source: Peter Linehar