



**CORNELL
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OF
ONEIDA COUNTY**

HOME GROWN FACTS

121 Second Street Oriskany, NY 13424-9799
(315) 736-3394 or (315) 337-2531 FAX: (315) 736-2580

Conservation Plants for the Northeast Re-vegetating the Adirondacks



Convallaria majalis, commonly known as the **Lily of the Valley** or **Prolificans Lily-of-the-Valley**, is one of two members of the genus *Convallaria* in the flowering plant family *Ruscaceae*. It is a woodland plant that is native throughout the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere in Asia and Europe. It is a herbaceous perennial plant that forms extensive colonies by spreading underground stems called rhizomes. These send up numerous stems each spring. The stems grow to 15-30 cm tall, with two leaves 10-25 cm long, and a raceme of 5-15 flowers on the stem apex. The flowers are white (rarely pink), bell-shaped, 5-10 mm diameter, and sweetly scented; flowering is in late spring, in mild winters in early March. The fruit is a small red berry 5-7 mm diameter. Zones 2-8.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lily_of_the_valley

Bearberry is a low growing evergreen. It has a stem that rises 2-8" off the ground and is covered in a thick bark and fine silky hairs. On the stem are many oval-shaped, leathery leaves that are 1/2" to 1" long. The flowers have five petals and are pale pink or white. The petals are only 1/2" long and are curled around the narrow center. They bloom anywhere between March and June. The fruit is a red berry 3/8" in diameter. Bearberry gets its name because bears like to feast on these berries.

Bearberry is commonly found in dry, non-nutrient soils such as sand, soils
http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/bear_berry.htm



American Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), also known as Black Alder, Black Alder Winterberry, Brook Alder, Coralberry, Deciduous Holly, Deciduous Winterberry, False alder, Fever bush, Inkberry, Michigan Holly, Possumhaw, Striped Alder, Swamp Holly, Virginian Winterberry, White Alder, or Winterberry Holly, is a species of holly native to a very large area in the eastern United States and southeast Canada, particularly in wetlands. The winterberry is one of a number of hollies which are deciduous, losing their leaves in the fall. Like most hollies, it is dioecious, with separate male and female plants; the proximity of at least one male plant is required to pollinize the females in order to bear fruit.

The plant can show a lot of variation, ranging in size from 1-5 m tall. It also shows variation in width; in wet sites, it will spread to form a dense thicket, while in dry soil it remains a tight shrub. The winterberry possesses the glossy green foliage typical of hollies, and small white flowers which give rise to the numerous small red berries which give the plant its name.

Ripe, red winterberries make a desired food for squirrels and winter birds

The winterberry is prized for the midwinter splash of bright color from densely packed berries, whose visibility is heightened by the loss of foliage; therefore it is popular even where other, evergreen, hollies are also grown. The bare

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

branches covered in berries are also popular for cutting and use in floral arrangements. It is a tough plant which is easy to grow, with very few diseases or pests. Although wet acidic soils are optimal, the winterberry will grow well in the average garden. Numerous cultivars are available, differing in size and shape of the plant and color of the berry. As described above, at least one male plant must be planted in proximity to one or more females for them to bear fruit.

The winterberry is also popular because its berries attract numerous species of birds; however this can also be a drawback as they also attract deer and small mammals. The berries were used by Native Americans for medicinal purposes, the origin of the name "fever bush". http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Winterberry

Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) is a species of *Myrica* native to eastern North America, from Newfoundland west to Ontario and Ohio, and south to North Carolina.

It is a deciduous shrub growing to 2-4.5 m tall. The leaves are 2.5-7 cm long and 1.5-2.7 cm broad, broadest near the leaf apex, serrated, and sticky with a spicy scent when crushed. The flowers are catkins 3-18 mm long, in range of colors from green to red. The fruit is a wrinkled berry 3-5.5 mm diameter, with a pale blue-purple waxy coating; they are an important food for Yellow-rumped Warblers.

This species has root nodules containing nitrogen-fixing microorganisms, allowing it to grow in relatively poor soils. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Northern_Bayberry_Leaf_Cluster_2420px.jpg



Tioga Deertongue is a perennial, warm season grass with prostrate growth habit that is very erect and coarse in appearance. The wide leaves of Deertongue that resemble a deer's tongue grow to 7.5 inches, and are rolled in the shoot. This plant may be confused with Jointhead Arthraxon (*Arthraxon hispidus*), But unlike those of Jointhead Arthraxon, the leaves of Deertongue are longer, and the stems of Deertongue do not root at the nodes. The leaf sheath and stem of this plant are hairy, and it has a fibrous root system.

Optimal growing conditions: Deertongue prefers moist, sandy soil in full sun to partial shade. It tolerates acid soil (pH 3.8 to 7.5), high concentrations of aluminum that may limit the growth of other species, and droughty infertile soil.

Susceptibility to pests and diseases: This plant is not very susceptible to pests and diseases.

Use: Deertongue is used as a low maintenance turf. It is an excellent plant for revegetating acid mine spoils, and sandy infertile disturbed areas. It provides food and cover for wildlife.

<http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/Extension/Woodys/CUGroundCoverSite/Dichanthelium%20clandestinum.html>

Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*) is usually found on hillsides, in dry soil, from Canada to North Carolina and west to Indiana and Saskatchewan.

Description.—Sweetfern is a shrub from 1 to 3 feet high with slender, erect, or spreading branches and reddish-brown bark. The thin, narrow leaves are from 3 to 6 inches long, from one-fourth to one-half an inch wide, deeply divided into many lobes and in general resembling the leaves of a fern. Both male and female flowers are produced. The former are borne in cylindrical catkins in clusters at the ends of the branches and the latter in egg-shaped catkins. The whole plant has a spicy, aromatic odor, which is more pronounced when the leaves are bruised. <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/herbhunters/sweetfern.html>



Crownvetch (*Coronilla varia* L.) is a perennial legume adapted to the temperate climates of the northern two-thirds of the United States. It is native to central and southern Europe, North Africa, and the Near East. Crownvetch was most likely introduced in the late 1800's and early 1900's as a contaminant in alfalfa and other legume seed. From these chance introductions, the variety Penngift was named from a selection in eastern Pennsylvania. Crownvetch is a hardy, deep-rooted plant that has proven its value for soil

stabilization and erosion control for roadsides, steep banks, strip mine sites, and other non cropland areas. <http://cropsoil.psu.edu/extension/livingmulch/sec94a.cfm>

Birdsfoot Trefoil prefers roadsides, fields and waste areas. Displays showy, sweetpea-like flowers. Produces complete cover in 2 years. The common name comes from the slender, spreading seed pods that resemble toes on a bird's foot. A native of Europe, introduced into the U.S. Birds-foot trefoil is drought resistant and produces nutritious, palatable forage for livestock and deer. It is thought that it will not cause bloat, as some legumes do. It is sometimes used for pasture and hay, and for soil conservation along highways. <http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/birdsfoot.html>



This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold, and/or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialist or your regional DEC office. READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE. Update 2008