

***Juniperus communis* L. var. *depressa* Pursh**

Current status: TU

Proposed status: PT

Submitted by: Tim Block and Ann Rhoads, Morris Arboretum, March 2010

Description: *Juniperus communis* is a spreading evergreen shrub or small tree to 4 m with spreading awl-shaped leaves in whorls of 3 that appear bluish due to their glaucous surface. Cones are fleshy, bluish-black, 6-12 mm. Common juniper is dioecious.

Habitat: Rocky soil, open woods, fields, or pastures

Range: PA to IN and north to Canada where it extends from Newfoundland to the Yukon and Alaska, also present at scattered sites in the western mountains. Pennsylvania is near the southern limit of range for this species.

Pennsylvania Status: PNHP database has 83 records, only 4 in the past 25 years, and 3 more in the past 50 years. In addition to the occurrence in the PNHP Database, we have a specimen from Lebanon County collected by A. Rhoads in 1993 (MOAR) which is from the same site as Kunsman's 1993 collection. Historic collections are clustered in southeastern PA and scattered elsewhere.

Identification Problems: Easily distinguished from cultivated junipers due to its spreading adult leaves arranged in whorls of 3.

Status in Other States: S1 in VA, NC, KY; S2 in PA, WV, OH, IN; SH in MD

Rationale for Change:

Only 4 known extant locations.

Intensity of development in southeastern PA where most historic locations were located.

Vulnerability to over browsing by deer;

Successional status, maturing second or third growth forests in many parts of the state are not suitable habitat.

Sources/References:

Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 1993. *Flora of North America North of Mexico, Volume 2*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Morris Arboretum Herbarium (MOAR)

NatureServe, <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>, accessed 3/2/2010.

Pennsylvania Flora Database, www.paflora.org, accessed 3/2/2010.

PNHP Database, accessed 12/16/2009.

Rhoads, Ann Fowler and Timothy A. Block. 2007. *The Plants of Pennsylvania, An Illustrated Manual*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA.

