

SALIX MYRICOIDES (Muhl) J. Carey
Blue-leaved Willow

FAMILY: Salicaceae

SYNONYMS: *Salix glaucophylla* Bebb
Salix glaucophylloides Fern.

HABIT: Low shrub to 3 m, occasionally a small tree to 5 m; flowers May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is easily confused with other willows, especially with *S. eriocephala*. *S. myricoides* has strongly glaucous leaves which are green above and bluish-white beneath. Young leaves typically dry blackish, whereas older leaves retain their bluish hue upon drying along with a characteristic purple hue on midrib and veins. The stems are smooth and yellow-green. The bracts of catkins are dark brown and long-hairy.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfdl. and e. Que. to n. ME and the Great Lakes region, s. to IL and WI, and n. to Hudson Bay.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Ashtabula, Champaign, Clark, Erie, Greene, Henry, Logan, Lucas, Portage, and Summit counties.

HABITAT: Open areas in fens, usually in marl or along streamlets; beaches and dunes along the shores of Lake Erie.

HAZARDS: Destruction of beaches and dunes by trampling or development; overgrowth by woody species in fens as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably good, the preservation and management of fens protects critical habitat for this species.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete material including pistillate catkins and leaves; note color of leaves upon drying.

COMMENTS: This species once considered extirpated from Ohio has now been discovered after extensive survey work in several fens in west-central Ohio and in one fen in northeastern Ohio (Stine 1989, 1990).

The species was formerly known from Cedar Point in Erie County, but is now apparently extirpated from Lake Erie dunes and beaches in Ohio.

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