



MOUNTAIN LAUREL *Kalmia latifolia* L.

Mountain laurel is an erect-stemmed low shrub or small tree that grows in rocky woods or on low ground. Mountain laurel occurs rarely in southern and western Maine and is listed as a species of special concern.

The **leaves** are evergreen, green on both sides, elliptical, up to 3 inches long and 1 inch wide. They are flat, thick and leathery with an entire margin, and narrowed at both ends. Arrangement is mostly alternate, grouped at the tip of the twig, sometimes opposite and rarely in threes.

The **flowers** are pink with variations possible. They are borne in erect, terminal clusters.

The **fruit** are globose, woody capsules borne on erect, hairy, sticky stalks that are many times longer than the diameter of the capsules. The capsules have long, persistent styles.

The **twigs** are rounded and sticky at first, but later become smooth.

