

ROSEBAY RHODODENDRON

Rhododendron maximum L.

Rosebay rhododendron or great-laurel is a shrub or straggling tree up to 30 feet high. It is a very rare species found locally in parts of Somerset, Franklin, Cumberland and York Counties in damp woods or near pond margins. It is listed as an endangered species in Maine as there are less than five known occurrences.

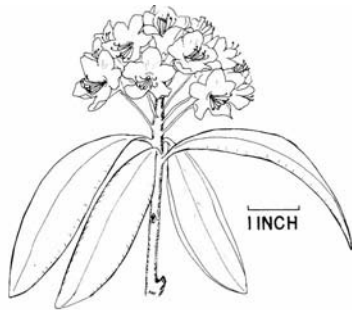
The **leaves** are evergreen, ovate to oblong, alternate, entire, 4-8 inches long, thick and leathery, with the margin frequently rolled under. They are smooth and dark green above, pale below.

The **flowers** are bell-shaped and occur in dense clusters.

They are generally white with a pinkish tinge with other variations possible.

The **fruit** is an oblong, woody capsule covered with sticky hairs. It is

borne terminally in erect clusters on stalks several times longer than the capsule. The **twigs** are hairy.



FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Cornus florida L.

Flowering dogwood is an unusually beautiful shrub or small tree and occurs naturally only in York County. Planted specimens generally are only hardy in the southern and coastal areas of the state. It reaches a height of 12-20 feet. The **leaves** are opposite, entire, ovate to elliptic, bright green and smooth above, pale green and with hairs on the veins beneath. They are 3-6 inches long. The **flowers** are conspicuous and appear early in the spring. They are greenish white or yellowish and are arranged in dense umbels surrounded by four large, white, petal-like bracts which give the appearance of large spreading flowers. The **fruit** is a bright red, ellipsoid drupe about ½ inch long and occurs in clusters. The **twigs** are smooth, greenish, and angular. The **buds** are covered by two valve-like scales.