

**KEY TO THE COMMON WETLAND SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES OF
WISCONSIN (NATIVE AND NATURALIZED)
(includes Region 3 Wetland Status)**

LAWRENCE A. LEITNER

- 1. Leaves evergreen or leathery 2
 - 2. Creeping or prostrate shrubs 3
 - 3. Leaves ovate and acute; fleshy fruit less than 1 cm diameter Vaccinium oxycoccos
(small cranberry) OBL
 - 3. Leaves elliptical, obtuse; fleshy fruit greater than 1 cm diameter Vaccinium macrocarpon
(large cranberry) OBL
 - 2. Erect shrubs 4
 - 4. Leaves with strongly revolute margins 5
 - 5. Leaves densely woolly beneath Ledum groenlandicum
(Labrador-tea) OBL
 - 5. Leaves whitened beneath, but not woolly 6
 - 6. Leaves opposite Kalmia polifolia
(bog laurel) OBL
 - 6. Leaves alternate Andromeda glaucophylla
(bog rosemary) OBL
 - 4. Leaf margins not strongly revolute Chamaedaphne calyculata
(leatherleaf) OBL
- 1. Leaves deciduous, not noticeably leathery 7
 - 7. Leaves all compound (see '7' on p. 3) 8
 - 8. Unarmed climbing vines 9
 - 9. Leaves opposite Clematis virginiana
(virgin's-bower) FAC
 - 9. Leaves alternate 10
 - 10. Tendrils present; leaves palmate, with 5 leaflets 11
 - 11. Tendrils with 5-12 branches, mostly with adhesive disks . . . Parthenocissus quinquefolia
(Virginia creeper) FAC-
 - 11. Tendrils with 2-5 branches, without adhesive disks Parthenocissus inserta
(thicket creeper) FACU

10. Tendrils wanting; leaflets three Rhus radicans
(poison ivy) FAC+
8. Erect or trailing shrubs 12
12. Leaves opposite 13
13. Leaflets three; fruit an inflated capsule Staphylea trifolia
(bladdernut) FAC
13. Leaflets 5-9; fruit a berry 14
14. Pith brown, fruit red Sambucus pubens
(red-berried elder) FACU+
14. Pith white, fruit black Sambucus canadensis
(elderberry) FACW-
12. Leaves alternate 15
15. Leaflet margins entire, not lobed or dissected 16
16. Stems spiny Zanthoxylum americanum
(prickly-ash) UPL
16. Stems unarmed 17
17. Leaflets over 5 cm long; a tall shrub; fruit a white berry Rhus vernix
(poison sumac) OBL
17. Leaflets under 5 cm long; a low shrub; fruit dry Potentilla fruticosa
(shrubby cinquefoil) FACW
15. Leaflet margins conspicuously toothed, lobed, or dissected 18
18. Leaves pinnately compound; 5-11 leaflets 19
19. Stems with paired spines Zanthoxylum americanum
(prickly-ash) UPL
19. Stems with prickles 20
20. Shrubs with long, vine-like canes requiring support; stipules conspicuously fringed Rosa multiflora
(multiflora rose) FACU
20. Upright shrubs; stipules entire Rosa palustris
(swamp rose) OBL
18. Leaves palmately compound; 3-5 leaflets 21
21. Plants low, unarmed, woody only at base Rubus pubescens
(dwarf raspberry) FACW+
21. Plants taller, more-or-less armed, with woody biennial canes 22

22. Ripe fruit falling off whole from receptacle; leaves white-tomentose beneath; stems glaucous, terete (RASPBERRIES)23
23. Ripe fruit red; stems erect; prickles straight, needle-like, numerous
..... Rubus strigosus
(red raspberry) FACW-
23. Ripe fruit black; stems arching; prickles stout, hooked, fewer
..... Rubus occidentalis
(black raspberry) UPL
22. Ripe fruit not separating from receptacle; leaves green beneath; stems not glaucous, square in x-s (BLACKBERRIES) Rubus allegheniensis
(common blackberry) FACU+
7. Leaves simple24
24. Leaves all opposite or whorled (see '24' on p. 4) 25
25. Leaf margins entire; leaves not lobed (see '25' on p. 4) 26
26. Stipules present; leaves usually whorled; fruit dry in spherical head
..... Cephalanthus occidentalis
(buttonbush) OBL
26. Stipules absent; leaves in pairs; fruit fleshy 27
27. Several papery scales present at twig base; fruit a watery berry 28
28. Leaves all separate; flowers and fruits in pairs on single axillary peduncles; erect shrubs29
29. Leaves and twigs glabrous Lonicera tatarica
(Tatarian honeysuckle) FACU+
29. Leaves and twigs more-or-less pubescent30
30. Leaves pubescent beneath; twigs and peduncles densely hairy
..... Lonicera morrowii
(Morrow's honeysuckle) UPL
30. Leaves sparsely pubescent (only a few hairs on veins beneath); peduncles and twigs sparsely hairy Lonicera x bella
(hybrid honeysuckle) FACU-
28. Uppermost leaves connate; flowers and fruits in sessile, terminal clusters; trailing vines 31
31. Connate upper leaves longer than broad, green above and whitened beneath . .
..... Lonicera dioica
(red honeysuckle) FACU
31. Connate upper leaves forming a nearly round disk, glaucous
..... Lonicera prolifera
(yellow honeysuckle) UPL

41. Leaves not lobed, pinnatifid, nor dissected (see '41' on p. 7) 42
42. Stems and twigs with long, stout spines; fruit a pome Crataegus spp. (see p. 9)
(hawthorns) FAC, FACW-
42. Stems and twigs without long, stout spines (at most with short, weaker spines at ends of twigs); fruit other 43
43. Leaves in fascicles Nemopanthus mucronata
(mountain holly) OBL
43. Leaves not fascicled 44
44. Buds with single scales (see '44' on p. 6) 45
45. Leaves entire, or at most coarsely and remotely toothed (see '45' on p. 6) . . . 46
46. Leaf margins revolute 47
47. Leaves glabrous, entire, green above and glaucous beneath
. Salix pedicellaris
(bog willow) OBL
47. Leaves pubescent, at least below 48
48. Leaves densely white-tomentose beneath, usually at least 7 times as long as wide Salix candida
(sage willow) OBL
48. Leaves thinly to densely hairy, less than 7 times as long as wide
. Salix humilis
(prairie willow) FACU
46. Leaves not revolute 49
49. Leaf blades usually less than 3 times as long as wide; stipules, when present, less than 2 mm long Salix bebbiana
(Bebb's willow) FACW+
49. Many leaf blades more than 3 times as long as wide; stipules, when present, more than 2 mm long 50
50. Leaf blades rarely more than 4 times as long as wide, nearly glabrous Salix discolor
(pussy willow) FACW
50. Many leaf blades more than 4 times as long as wide, pubescent to nearly glabrous beneath 51
51. Leaves green and smooth above, acuminate, hairs straight and appressed Salix petiolaris
(meadow willow) FACW+
51. Leaves gray-green and wrinkled above, broadly acute, hairs beneath tangled Salix humilis
(prairie willow) FACU

45. Leaves sharply toothed 52
52. Most leaf blades more than 10 times as long as wide; leaves irregularly toothed; teeth with distinct glands Salix interior (= S. exigua) (sandbar willow) OBL
52. Leaf blades less than 10 times as long as wide; leaves regularly toothed; teeth glandular or not 53
53. Leaves green beneath, glaucous or pubescent 54
54. Petioles without glands at summit Salix eriocephala (heart-leaved willow) FACW
54. Petioles with glands at summit 55
55. Stipules well-developed, persistent, glandular Salix lucida (shining willow) FACW+
55. Stipules absent or minute Salix serissima (autumn willow) OBL
53. Leaves distinctly pale, glaucous, or white-pubescent beneath 56
56. Mature leaves rounded at base; stipules often prominent and persistent 57
57. Leaf blades mostly more than 4 times as long as wide and less than 2.2 cm wide Salix eriocephala (heart-leaved willow) FACW
57. Leaf blades rarely more than 4 times as long as wide and greater than 2.2 cm wide Salix glaucophylloides (blue-leaved willow) FACW
56. Mature leaves tapered at base; stipules absent or minute Salix serissima (autumn willow) OBL
44. Buds with several overlapping scales 58
58. Leaves entire or only faintly toothed 59
59. Leaves crowded towards ends of branches Cornus alternifolia (alternate-leaved dogwood) FAC-
59. Leaves not crowded Rhamnus frangula (glossy buckthorn) FAC+
58. Leaves toothed 60
60. Leaves at least twice as long as broad (see '60' on p. 7) 61
61. Leaves under 2 cm wide 62

62. Leaves glabrous Spiraea alba
(meadowsweet) FAC+
62. Leaves tomentose Spiraea tomentosa
(hardhack) FACW
61. Leaves over 2 cm wide 63
63. Midveins of leaves with small, black glands; buds pointed; flowers and fruits in
terminal clusters Aronia melanocarpa
(chokeberry) FACW-
63. Midveins of leaves without glands; buds blunt; flowers and fruits not terminal 64
64. Fruit red; leaf veins networking before reaching margins of leaf Ilex verticillata
(winterberry) FACW+
64. Fruit blue-black; leaf veins turning upward and running to margin 65
65. Leaves with 5-8 pairs of veins; a low shrub Rhamnus alnifolia
(alder buckthorn) OBL
65. Leaves with 3-4 pairs of veins; a large shrub or small tree
. Rhamnus cathartica
(European buckthorn) FACU
60. Leaves wider, less than twice as long as broad 66
66. Pith triangular or flattened in cross-section; fruit dry 67
67. Leaves large, rounded or cordate at base Alnus rugosa
(tag alder) OBL
67. Leaves small, narrowed to base Betula pumila
(bog birch) OBL
66. Pith round in cross-section; fruit fleshy 68
68. Petioles with a few large glands Prunus virginiana
(chokecherry) FAC-
68. Petioles eglandular 69
69. Leaf veins curving upward and running to margin of leaf Rhamnus cathartica
(European buckthorn) FACU
69. Leaf veins networking before reaching margin of leaf Amelanchier spp.
(serviceberries) UPL
41. Leaves lobed, pinnatifid, or dissected 70
70. Tall shrubs, with stout thorns Crataegus spp. (see p. 9)
(hawthorns) FAC, FACW-
70. Shorter shrubs, unarmed or merely prickly 71

71. Stipules present; fruit dry; bark shredding; stems unarmed Physocarpus opulifolius
(ninebark) FACW-
71. Stipules absent; fruit a berry; bark not shredding; stems armed or not 72
72. Stems armed; flowers solitary or in corymbs (GOOSEBERRIES) 73
73. Ovary and fruit prickly; stems usually densely prickly Ribes cynosbati
(pasture gooseberry) UPL
73. Ovary and fruit usually smooth or pubescent; stem prickles often wanting; spines often
confined to nodes Ribes hirtellum
(northern gooseberry) FACW
72. Stems (usually) unarmed; flowers in racemes (CURRANTS) 74
74. Leaves with golden resinous dots; ripe fruit black Ribes americanum
(wild black currant) FACW
74. Leaves without resin dots; ripe fruit red 75
75. Pedicels glandular; terminal lobe of leaves with essentially straight sides to a
broadly acute tip; a more-or-less creeping shrub. Ribes triste
(swamp red currant) OBL
75. Pedicels eglandular; terminal lobes of leaves with each side producing a subtle
curve to the obtuse tip; an erect shrub Ribes sativum
(garden red currant) UPL

CRATAEGUS SPECIES

(three species which may be encountered in wetlands; many more inhabit uplands)

1. Leaves broadest at or below middle, rounded at base, and usually lobed; plants strongly pubescent; fruit large (to 2.2 cm diameter), red, often with pale dots and hairy at ends; flowers large (to 2.5 cm diameter) Crataegus mollis
(downy hawthorn) FACW-

1. Leaves broadest at or above middle, cuneate at base, may be lobed; plants somewhat pubescent or glabrous; fruit smaller, red to green; flowers smaller (0.8 to 1.8 cm wide) 2

2. Leaves broadest above middle, obovate, glossy and smooth above; plants more-or-less glabrous; conspicuous (5-7 cm long) thorns; fruits green to dull red Crataegus crus-galli
(cockspur hawthorn) FAC

2. Leaves broadest near middle, scabrous above; young twigs tomentose; thorns somewhat shorter (2.5-5 cm long) (often absent); fruits bright red Crataegus calpodendron
(sugar hawthorn) FACU-