



# Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia*

**Common name** • Pondberry  
**Scientific name** • *Lindera melissifolia*  
**Federal status** • Endangered  
**State status** • Endangered

## Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended to be used as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. Contact the Department for management information.

## Ecology

Pondberry, also referred to as Southern spicebush, is a moderate-sized shrub found in swampy, sandy depressions of lowland forests. In order to thrive, this plant requires poorly drained sandy soils in heavily shaded areas. Pondberry produces blooms from March to early April before its leaves emerge. It is able to produce new plants either vegetatively, by sending out rhizomes, or by the production of seeds in late summer. Currently only one known population occurs in the state in southeastern Ripley County. It also occurs in adjacent northern Arkansas and in several other southeastern states.

## Reasons for Decline

Pondberry populations are widely disjunct across the southeast, and were likely never common. They have further declined as a result of the clearing of bottomland forests and the drainage of wetlands for agricultural use. The seasonally inundated sandy swales where Pondberry occurs in Missouri are particularly vulnerable to alterations of the local water table.

## Specific Recommendations

- Survey for this species prior to altering wooded swales or bottomland forests in southeastern Ripley County.
- Maintain water quality and water table levels in southeastern Ripley County.
- Avoid herbicide use at any known site
- Avoid operating any heavy equipment across any known site. Selective tree removal could be conducted if needed, provided that the logging was conducted only during dry soil conditions, and that cables were used to haul the logs to prevent any soil disturbance.

## Information Contacts

For further information regarding construction projects in wetlands, contact:

For species information:

### [Missouri Department of Conservation](#)

Resource Science Division  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

### [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Ecological Services  
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A  
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0007  
Telephone: 573-234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

### [Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#)

Water Protection Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/751-1300, 800/361-4827

### [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

### [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

## Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or

local laws may affect construction practices. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination.