



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 as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. Please contact the Department of Conservation if habitat management information is needed. Because every project and location differ, following the recommendations in this document does not guarantee impacts will not occur to the species and additional information may be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations in this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more 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.

General Recommendations

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or the [Missouri Department of Transportation Environmental Studies webpage](#) for additional information on recommendations.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

For species information:

[Missouri Department of Conservation](#)

Science Branch

P.O. Box 180

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, MO 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: 816-389-3990

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

EPA Region 7 Water Division

11201 Renner Boulevard

Lenexa, KS 66219

Telephone: 913-551-7977

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 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. Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or Local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.