

Gaultheria procumbens

Native to Maine

Wintergreen
Teaberry

Upland
Freshwater Wetlands and Water's edge

Leaves



Wade Franklin, flickr.com



Look for waxy leaves that are 2 to 5 cm long and occur in clusters of 2 or 3. The oval leaves are alternately arranged and appear smooth with slightly-lobed edges. Crush a leaf. If it smells like mint you have wintergreen!













Plant



dogtooth77, flickr.com



Look for a very small shrub growing about 10 to 15 cm tall. Plants may form large mats and are evergreen, keeping their leaves through all seasons.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Stem



Yuri Huta



Look for a creeping green stem that has small red berries in the fall & winter that hang beneath the leaves.

Seasonal Change



arghman and dogtooth77, flickr.com



In July look for small bell-shaped white flowers. In the fall, look for red berries that last into winter among reddish-green leaves.

Similar Species

Many plants with similar red berries are toxic, such as hollies and yews. Hollies are much larger (1 m or more tall) with prickly evergreen leaves. Yews have needles unlike wintergreen's smooth green leaves. Only Wintergreen leaves will smell like mint when crushed!

Fun Fact

Wintergreen leaves and berries are edible. The crushed leaves have been used to make teas to relieve sore throats, headaches, and upset stomachs.

Researched and created by: N. Stephens and S. Donaldson
Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.