

Saving Common Hoptree:

What you can do to help

Common Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) is a tall shrub or small tree that grows in open woodlands, especially along the Lake Erie shoreline.

Do you live near Common Hoptree?

In Canada, Common Hoptree grows mainly along shorelines in Essex, Chatham-Kent, Elgin, Norfolk, Lambton Counties and the Niagara Region. Common Hoptree needs lots of light, so it tends to grow in open woodlands or on the edges of deciduous forests. It grows in sandy soils and is often found on sand dunes. On the Erie islands it also occurs on alvars.

What you can do to help

- ✓ **Learn to identify this plant.** If you are lucky enough to discover a new population of Common Hoptree, be sure to report it to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources or the Natural Heritage Information Centre.
- ✓ **Do not do heavy construction** near Common Hoptree. Excavating near or within the drip line of the tree canopy damages the roots and can cause death of the tree. Maintain a buffer zone from Common Hoptrees. Consult your Conservation Authority for information on appropriate buffer size.
- ✓ **Avoid beach grooming, mowing, trampling, or logging near Common Hoptrees.** These activities can destroy seedlings. Cutting trees and branches when grooming can also damage the trees.
- ✓ **Keep your shoreline natural.** If you have property on the lake set aside some natural space for Common Hoptree and other shoreline species. Build boardwalks or defined access pathways to minimize damage to the natural area.
- ✓ **Follow tree protection bylaws.** If you hire a private company to prune trees or undertake construction work make sure they follow the bylaws as well.



Photo: J. Ambrose

Field check

- ✓ Height: 3-8 metres
- ✓ Leaves: three leaflets, up to 10 cm long and 5cm wide; thick, dark green and shiny on the upper side, but pale on the lower side; alternately attached; citrus like odour when crushed
- ✓ Stem: smooth reddish brown bark
- ✓ Flowers: early summer; creamy or greenish-white ; clusters
- ✓ Fruit: winged, disk-shaped samaras containing 2 or 3 seeds

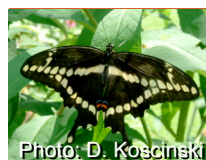


Photo: D. Kosciński



Photo: J. Ambrose

Did you know?

The larvae of the rare Giant Swallowtail feed on Common Hoptree. The larvae look like bird droppings to avoid getting eaten!

More Best Stewardship Practices

- ✓ **Stay on designated trails** when you visit natural areas.
- ✓ **Keep your pets on a leash** when you walk them in natural areas, as pets can transport invasive plant seeds if they get stuck in the pet's hair.
- ✓ **Learn to identify invasive species.** Your local Conservation Authority or Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Office can provide you with information on invasive species that occur in your area and what you can do to help prevent their spread.
- ✓ **Avoid dumping waste of any kind in natural areas.** Garbage damages plants, pollutes the environment and may introduce invasive species.
- ✓ **Landscape with native plant species** from local seed-stock supplied by a reputable garden centre.
- ✓ **Learn about stewardship activities** in your area and actively participate in protecting Species at Risk. To find more information about stewardship activities in your area, contact your local Stewardship Council or Conservation Authority.
- ✓ **Take advantage of the Environmental Farm Plan program.** To learn more contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources or the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.
- ✓ **If you have Species at Risk** on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs or financial incentives that support the protection and recovery of Species at Risk and their habitats. Contact the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for more information.
- ✓ **Report any illegal activity** related to plants and wildlife to 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

Status

Common Hoptree is listed as Threatened nationally and provincially. It is illegal to kill, harm or collect the species, or to destroy its habitat in Ontario.

Carolinian Canada Coalition is working with local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Offices, Conservation Authorities and other Non-Governmental Organizations to recover Species at Risk.

You can help the recovery efforts by protecting this species and its habitat.

Good sources of information

Carolinian Canada Coalition:

www.carolinian.org

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources:

Includes information about Ontario Species at Risk
www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/

Natural Heritage Information Centre

<http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/>

Find your local Conservation Authority Office:

www.conservationontario.ca

Government of Canada Species at Risk Public Registry:

www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Find your local Stewardship Council:

www.ontariostewardship.org

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

www.omafra.gov.on.ca/

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Includes information about the Environmental Farm Plan
ontariosoilcrop.org

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