

Kalmia angustifolia

Native to Maine

Sheep Laurel
Lamb Kill, Sheep Poison

Upland
Forests and Fields

Leaves



Peupleloup, flickr



Look for oblong, pointed leaves 1.5 to 5 cm long in whorls of 3 or opposite on the stem. The leaf edges are smooth and slightly rolled under.

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

Plant



Peupleloup, flickr



Look for a branching evergreen shrub growing up to 90 cm tall. It is found in coniferous, mixed, and hardwood forests.

Stem



Sandy Richards



Look for brown bark that is smooth and woody. The stems have whorls of leaves all the way to the tip.

Seasonal Change



RobertHMohlenbrock, USDA-NRCS



In June or July look for pink flowers that are saucer-shaped and in clusters. Small wrinkly fruit appears in fall and can persist through winter.

Similar Species

Sheep Laurel is similar to Mountain Laurel and Bog Laurel. The plant and leaves of Sheep Laurel are much smaller than Mountain Laurel (which can be 9 m tall with 12 cm leaves). Leaves of Bog Laurel are only opposite on the stem, not in whorls as they are on Sheep Laurel.

Fun Fact

Sheep Laurel has been known by the name lamb kill because it is very poisonous. Sheep, cattle and goats have been known to die from eating this plant.