



# SPOTTED WINTERGREEN

## Species at Risk

In Canada, Spotted Wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*) only occurs in Southern Ontario, in a hand full of separate populations in proximity to the Great Lakes. This plant is an endangered species.

Spotted Wintergreen is an evergreen herb that spreads by underground roots that produce shoots that develop new plants (rhizomes). The leaves of this plant aid in the identification as they are thick, dark green, toothed with a lighter green to white pattern along the centre of the leaf (variegated). The leaves can be found in whorls of two or three, near the base of the plant. This plant is 10 to 25 centimeters in height.

Flowers are white or pink, nodding with 5 wide petals that bend slightly backward. The flowers can be found by themselves or in pairs. Flowering time is from mid June to early August. The stem of this plant is smooth. This plant is usually found in sandy soil within Oak Pine woods.

Major threats to this species include habitat loss from urbanization, habitat disturbance and destruction. Many of the known sites are found along frequently used dirt bike and ATV trails.

It is illegal to search for, harass or capture a species at risk or destroy their habitat.

Pictures courtesy of Sam Brinker

Reference: COSEWIC 2000. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the spotted wintergreen *Chimaphila maculata* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 6 pp.

