



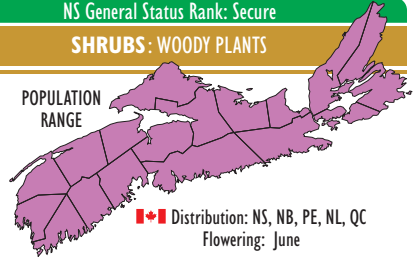
## Dwarf Huckleberry

*Gaylussacia bigeloviana*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION  
RANGE



**SIZE:** 10-50 cm tall.

**LEAVES:** Inversely egg-shaped (obovate), dark green, thick, 2-4 cm long and end in a fine pointed tip. The leaf edges are smooth (entire) and small shiny resin glands dot the leaf surface. They are alternately arranged along the branches.

**STEM:** Smooth, dark, and branching. Young branches have many fine hairs covering their surface.

**FLOWERS:** White to pinkish, 6-9 mm long and bell shaped with five lobes. The flowers, which point downwards, are arranged in elongate and sometimes drooping clusters.

**FRUITS:** Blue to black, round, edible, berry-like drupes with soft hairs, 5-8 mm wide.

**NOTES:** Spreads using long horizontal roots (rhizomes) which run below ground and send up new shrubs. Also known as Bog Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa* var. *bigeloviana*)



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Fruits with soft hairs © ALAIN BELLIVEAU



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### Habitat:

Open acidic sphagnum bogs and barrens.

**Interesting point:** The juicy berries look like larger and darker blueberries with larger seeds but are even sweeter!

**Similar species:** Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) is taller (50 to 200 cm), has smooth fruits and much shinier leaves with rounded ends.



Black Huckleberry © SEAN BLANEY



Bell-shaped flowers © SEAN BLANEY