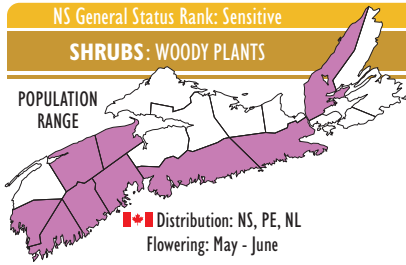


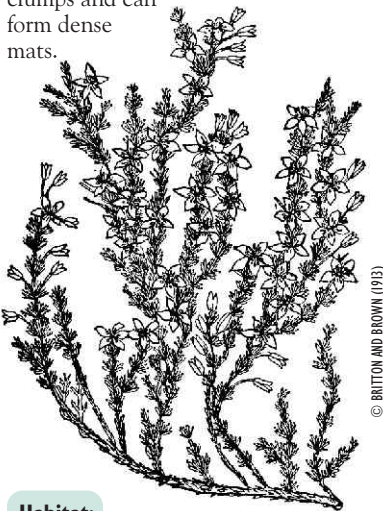


POPULATION RANGE



■ Distribution: NS, PE, NL
Flowering: May - June

SIZE: Up to 30 cm tall and 1 m wide.
LEAVES: Long and narrow (linear), scale-like evergreen leaves with soft hairs, 3-6 mm long. They are alternately arranged and spread outward and overlap on the stem. The leaves closest to the ground may be dead and brownish but stay attached to the stem. They turn a brownish orange colour in the fall and winter.
STEM: Slender twigs with long soft hairs.
FLOWERS: Numerous and yellow with 5 petals and 8-20 stamens. A single flower is found at the end of a short flowering stalk, 5-15 mm long.
FRUITS: Capsules with 1-3 cylindrical seeds.
NOTES: A low growing, bushy, heather-like shrub that often grows in clumps and can form dense mats.



© BRITTON AND BROWN (1913)



© DAVID PATRIQUIN, NS WILD FLORA SOCIETY



Growing in clumps © SEAN BLANEY

© DAVID PATRIQUIN



Scale-like leaves

© MEGAN CROWLEY



Flower and leaves

Habitat:

Dry barrens on sand or rock outcrops.

Interesting point: Despite its name Golden Heather is not a true heather and belongs to the Rock Rose family (*Cistaceae*). Included in this family is the beautiful yellow-flowered Rockrose (*Helianthemum canadense*) which is also found in sand barrens and is endangered in NS.

Similar species: Sand Heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*) has shorter or absent flower stalks (0-3 mm long) and 1-3 mm long leaves that are very hairy and tightly pressed against the stem. It is known in NS only from the dunes of the Northumberland Strait. Broom Crowberry (*Corema conradii*, page 49) frequently co-occurs with Golden Heather but has fruit and flowers on shorter stalks with flesher looking leaves with no hairs and purplish or reddish flowers.



Sand Heather

© SEAN BLANEY