



Summary of the proposed recovery strategy for the

ROUND-LEAVED GREENBRIER

Under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), a recovery strategy must be developed for species listed as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened to help guide the actions needed to stop or reverse their decline. This document highlights the key sections of the recovery strategy for Round-leaved Greenbrier.

Species Conservation Status

Round-leaved Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*) is listed as Threatened under both SARA and Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007*.

Description and Distribution

Round-leaved Greenbrier is a long-lived perennial vine with long stems that climb with tendrils up into trees or form tangles over the ground. This plant has stems that become woody at the base and are armed with stout, flattened, widely-spaced prickles. The oval- to heart-shaped leaves are arranged alternately along the stem and have arching parallel veins. The fruit is a blue-black berry about 8 millimetres in size.

In Ontario, this species can be found in Essex County, Norfolk County and the Niagara Region.

Habitat Needs

In Ontario, Round-leaved Greenbrier is found in the understory and openings of moist to wet deciduous forests typically dominated by Red Maple, Red Oak or Pin Oak trees.

Threats to the Species' Survival

- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to residential, industrial, and commercial development;
- High-intensity logging; and
- Alterations to the moisture regime by human activities such as ditches, berms, or changing creek flows.



Round-leaved Greenbrier
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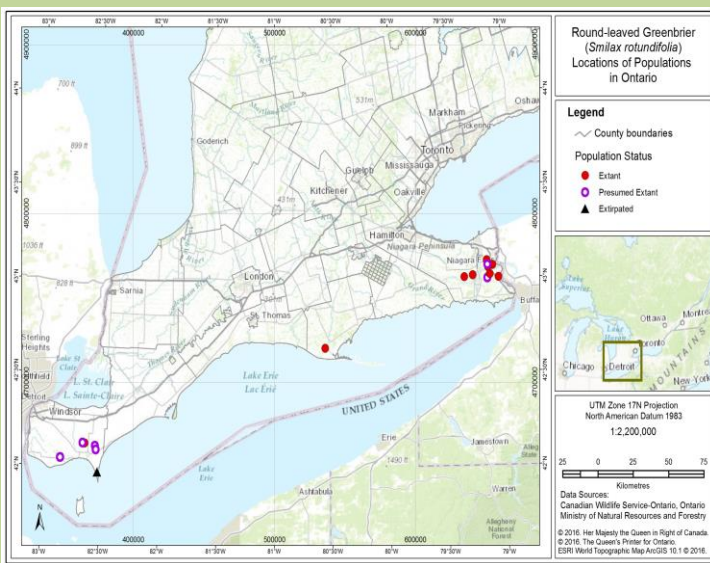
Population and Distribution Objective

Maintain the species' distribution (including any new local populations that are discovered) and to maintain or, where necessary and feasible, increase abundance at the 16 existing local populations.

Strategies to Help Meet Objectives

Broad strategies to address the threats to the survival and recovery of the species include:

- Survey and monitor local populations to confirm their status and assess threats and site conditions;
- Collaborate with private landowners, municipalities, and conservation authorities to manage and protect habitat at all existing sites in Ontario;
- Research knowledge gaps on the natural limitations of the species; and
- Support land use planning, protection, stewardship and restoration of Round-leaved Greenbrier habitat.



Distribution of Round-leaved Greenbrier local populations in Ontario

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is the habitat identified in a recovery strategy or action plan that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species. For a full description of critical habitat, please refer to the strategy.

Critical habitat for the Round-leaved Greenbrier consists of the entire connected forest patch where the species occurs, that contains the suitable habitat conditions (i.e. moist to wet wooded habitat with sandy soils) that the species needs to carry out essential life processes and allow for population expansion. Human-made structures such as roads and buildings are not identified as critical habitat.

Activities likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat

These include (but are not limited to):

- Conversion of wooded habitats to other land uses, including development or clearing of forest for other purposes;
- Activities resulting in changes to moisture regimes within critical habitat, (e.g. creation or blockage of ditches, draining of land for farming or development) or changes to the slope around Round-leaved Greenbrier plants (e.g. digging around plants);
- Heavy grazing by deer or livestock in critical habitat;
- Activities that cause rutting, soil compaction or erosion (e.g. use of heavy equipment, off-trail use of recreational vehicles); and
- Logging more than 33% of the trees that make up the forest canopy at one time, or enough to cause drying of the soil.

How You Can Help

- Learn more about Round-leaved Greenbrier, the threats to its survival and its habitat needs at sararegistry.gc.ca;
- Practice voluntary stewardship activities and best management practices, for example:
 - work in cooperation with Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Habitat Stewardship funding Program (www.ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih/) and/or local conservation groups to conserve essential habitat; and
 - avoid activities that could harm the species or its habitat.
- Submit observation data to conservation data centres (e.g., the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre).

Cover photos:

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You can also visit the following website for more information:

Species at Risk Public Registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

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