

Mountain Laurel (species and 'Nipmuck') (*Kalmia latifolia*)

Mature size about 5 to 12' tall, dense-compact or loose-open, depending on amount of light; becomes picturesque with gnarly twisting trunks in maturity (*see ancient specimen in woods, Photo 4*).

CT native, found in rocky or lowland woods, bogs, peat lands, pine barrens.

Charming cup-shaped 3/4-1" white to pink flowers with purple dot markings in a circle, in 4-6" clusters, June.

Leaves dark green and glossy above.

Prefers partial shade to full sun, with more flowers in sun; cool moist well-drained acidic organic soil. avoid windswept sites, but likes good air circulation

Wonderful in masses, gardens, shrub border, foundations, woodland edges, understory, hillsides.

Species flower —

Habitat for songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies.

Connecticut State Plant

'Nipmuck' Mountain Laurel:

4-5' x 4-6', upright and dense rounded form. Intense red flower buds open to ample numbers of light pink flowers with darker pink petal backs, in late May. Shiny foliage with a little twisting. One of Richard Jayne's first color crosses, developed in 1971.



Photos 1, 2, 4, 5: North Central Conservation District

Photo 3: Missouri Botanic PlantFinder

mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder

Two Photos, above:

S&J Perkins; rosebay.org