Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Please submit field forms, a copy of a USGS map, and all supporting documentation to the State Botanist at:

Massachusetts Natural Heritage
and Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 792-7270 ext. 200

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

Species Scientific Name: Ribes americanum

NHESP Element Occurrence Number (if known):

Observation Date(s): 21 and 22 September 1998

USGS Quad Name and Series (7.5"x7.5" or 7.5"x15"): Pittsfield East (1:25,000)

County: Berkshire Town: Pittsfield

Directions to location of observations (please attach USGS map): (N 4698074 – E 0644940) west side of Housatonic River, south of Holmes Road crossing 750 meters, at edge of floodplain forest and nettle dominated open areas.

Habitat: (Describe plant communities, associated vegetation, physical characteristics, geological features and surrounding land use. Are other rare species present?) Edge of floodplain forest (Acer negundo canopy dominant here), growing with Impatiens capensis, Alliaria petiolata, Laportea canadensis, and Pilea pumila. Open areas (field like) are adjacent to the floodplain forest fragment.

Areal Distribution, Numbers, Phenology

Population found: X
not found:
Presumed extirpated:
(give reasons under "Comments")

No. of mature plants: ca. 20
No. of immature plants:
No. of plants age unknown:

Population area: 5 X 5 meters

Percent of population in leaf: 100 bud: flower:
with immature fruit: mature fruit: senescent:

Observations of floral visitors, fruit dispersers: None observed

Vigor of individuals and population: Apparently vigorous

Evidence of expansion or decline: None

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years? Please give details: NO

Site Physiography

Elevation: 295 meters

Topographic position	Aspect	Slope	Light	Moisture
crest ____	N ____	0-20 X	open ____	inundated ____
upper slope ____	E ____	20-45 ____	filtered ____	wet ____
mid slope ____	S ____	45-75 ____	shade X	mesic X
lower slope ____	W ____	vert. ____		dry ____
bottom X	Flat X			xeric ____

Soil types: Alluvial

Surficial rock types (with percent of ground covered): none

Bedrock/parent material: unknown

Surficial water (distance away): ca. 100 m Source: Housatonic River

Management / Ownership

NHESP Site Name (if any): ____ Managed Area: ____

Comments/Management recommendations: ____

Disturbance or threats (natural or unnatural) to population: ____

Owner's Name: Housatonic River Valley State WMA Telephone: ( ) ____

Address: ____

Owner Comments: ____

Observer Information

Observer's Name: Arthur Haines Telephone: (207) 729-1199

Address: Woodlot Alternatives, Inc., 122 Main St., #3 Topsham, ME 04086

Plant ID by: Arthur Haines

Specimen # & Herbarium: none collected

Element Occurrence (EO) Summary (Circle one choice in each category)

EO Quality: (How representative is this occurrence? Consider the size and productivity of the population and the vitality and vigor of the individuals.)

A - Excellent B - Good (C) - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: ____

EO Condition: (Is the habitat supporting the EO pristine or degraded? Is there a potential for the habitat to recover from disturbances? A - Excellent B - Good (C) - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Degraded Community, open field areas with exotic plant species

EO Viability: (What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality?) A - Excellent (B) - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: EO exists on State Property

EO Defensibility: (Can this occurrence be protected from extrinsic human factors?)

A - Excellent (B) - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: ____

EO RANK: (A summary of all factors listed above.) A - Excellent B - Good (C) - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: ____

Signature: Arthur Haines Date: 9 November 1998

Ribes americanum 25'