



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Bearberry, Kinnikinick

Family: Ericaceae. (USDA 2011)

Blooming season: Early spring.

Plant:

Perennial, a creeping and sprawling plant, mature height is about 15 cm.

Leaves:

Green to dark green, oval shaped leaves, small about 1-2.5 cm long.

Flower:

Whitish-pink to yellow, size of flower is about 1cm. (USDA 2011)



Fruit: Small berry.

Geographic range:

State: Found in dune ecosystems between the foredunes and backdunes.

Region:

Habitat:

Grows in open areas dry areas.

Common local companions:

Jack pine, white pine, false heather, little blue stem grass, and juniper.

Uses:

Soap, extract for skin, and lotion. American Indians used leaves as a substitute for tobacco.

Why is it called that?

The specific name for bearberry is uva, which means grape, and ursus which means bear, thus the common name bearberry arises. (Webster 2006)