

# Mountain Laurel

*Kalmia latifolia*

## Identification Features:

- Broadleaf EVERGREEN shrub.
- The leaves can be ALTERNATE, OPPOSITE or WHORLED.
- Leaves: SIMPLE; ELLIPTICAL or LANCE shaped; glossy and leathery; 2"- 5" long.
- Flowers: very showy and vary in color from white to pink-rose to deep rose; all with unique purple markings; bell-shaped; occur in clusters; 1" in diameter; bloom in Spring.
- Fruits: small capsules; not showy; brown in color; less than 1" long; ripen in Autumn.
- Bark: gnarly, multi-stemmed; shreds and splits as the tree ages.
- Shrub reaching up to 8 feet tall. Grows in a rounded shape.



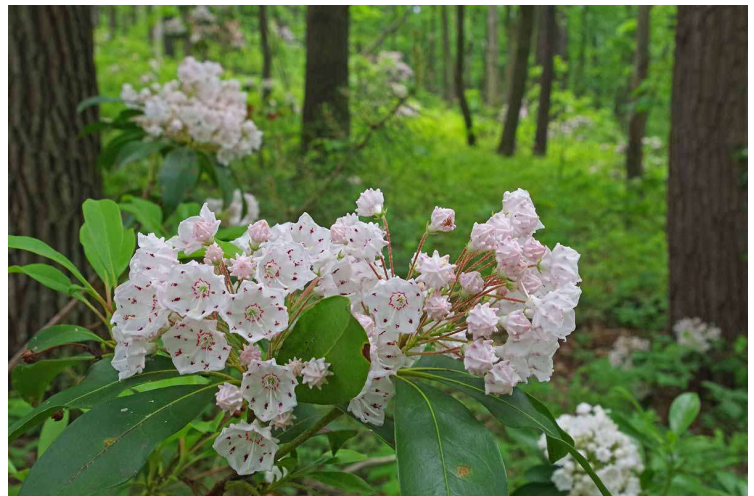
**LEAVES**

## Habitat:

- NATIVE to Pennsylvania.
- Cool, moist soils.
- Rocky, mountainous slopes.
- State flower of Pennsylvania.

## Wildlife Value:

- All parts are highly toxic to animals and humans.
- Provides winter cover.
- Hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators are attracted to the flowers.



**FLOWERS**

## Human Value:

- Considered one of the most beautiful native flowering shrubs.
- Used as an ornamental in many parks.
- The wood has been used for tool handles.



**FRUITS**

