

16. Crowberry *

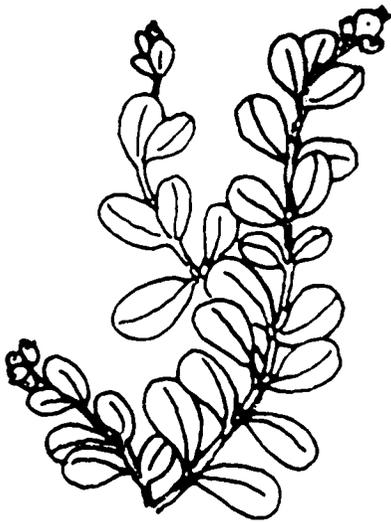
TRAITS: Small, evergreen, heather-like shrub.

HABITAT: Moist or wet ground in alpine or lowland tundra and boreal forest.

FOODS: Makes its own food by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Berries are eaten by grouse, ptarmigan, bears, lemmings, voles, geese, plovers, snow buntings, longspurs, and rosy finches.

"GEE WHIZ": The small, wax-coated leaves of the crowberry are resistant to drying by the wind and cold.



17. Bearberry *

TRAITS: Low-growing shrub with evergreen or persistent deciduous leaves; small, bell-shaped flowers; the fruit is an edible berry; a member of the heath family.

HABITAT: Grows on dry and moist soil in alpine and lowland tundra, forests, and muskegs.

FOODS: Makes its own by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Ptarmigan, bears, voles, lemmings, geese, plovers, and other birds.

GEE WHIZ: Bearberry plants depend on fungi to help them obtain nutrients from the soil. They provide sugars to the fungi in exchange.



18. Fireweed F

TRAITS: A tall plant, 2 1/2 to 5 feet; many reddish-purple flowers along the top of a stem; seeds are cottony.

HABITAT: Disturbed soils; forests with open canopies that allow plenty of sunlight to reach the forest floor.

FOODS: Makes its own by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Moth larvae, aphids, certain flies, true bugs, leafhoppers, slugs, redpolls, sparrows, moose, hares, bears.

"GEE WHIZ": Fireweed is one of the first plants to appear after a fire, sometimes just a few days after the fire is over.