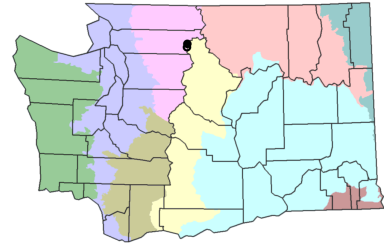


***Kalmia procumbens*** (L.) Gift & Kron  
synonym: *Loiseleuria procumbens* (L.) Desv.

alpine azalea

Ericaceae - heath family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive  
rank: G5 / S1



**General Description:** Adapted from Douglas et al. (1998-2002): A diffusely branched, dwarf evergreen shrub, trailing on the ground without rooting at the nodes. Stems 5-30 cm long, hairless or minutely hairy. Leaves with partially clasping stalks, opposite; blades leathery, bright green, narrowly elliptic, 3-8 x 1-3 mm, hairless above, short hairs below, with revolute margins.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers 2-6, light to deep pink, clustered in axils of upper stem leaves, erect on short stalks 1-10 mm long, straight or curved. Corolla bell-shaped, 5-lobed, 4-5 mm long. Calyx red, 1.5-2.5 mm long, hairless, persistent. Stamens 5, anthers unawned, opening full length by slits.

**Fruits:** Ovoid capsules 3-5 x 2-3 mm. Identifiable July to August.

**Identification Tips:** *Phyllodoce* species are closely related to *Kalmia*, but they have alternate, linear leaves 6-16 mm long, usually 10 stamens, and anthers that open by two terminal pores. *Cassiope* species have smaller leaves (less than 5 mm long) lacking revolute margins, awned anthers that open by terminal pores, and usually nodding flowers. *K. procumbens* differs from *K. microphylla* (two varieties occur in Washington) in having capsules with 2-3 chambers, smaller petals ( 3-5 mm vs. 7-9 mm) cleft half their length, and 5 stamens. *K. microphylla* has capsules with 5 chambers, petals that are only shallowly cleft, and 10 stamens.



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**Range:** Circumpolar. In N.A., from AK east throughout much of Canada, excepting Ontario, and south to WA, NY, NH, and ME.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Alpine slopes and cold, dry areas at high elevations. In WA it occurs from 1800 to 2000 m (6100-6550 ft).

**Comments:** This species is also rare in Alberta, Sask., Manitoba, Quebec, ME, NH, and NY.

**References:** Douglas et al. 1998-2002, vol. 3.



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