

Sorbus leyana Wilmott

Ley's whitebeam

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Rosaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Critically Endangered

Habit

Large, deciduous shrub or small tree.

Habitat

Scrub or open woodland.

Reasons for decline

number of ecological factors are thought to be involved in restricting the populations of Ley's whitebeam, including grazing, disease, competition with introduced trees and shrubs, and seed productivity, which is probably low due to small population size and poor breeding success. Further research is required to unravel their relative importance.

Afforestation activities in the past may have destroyed potential colonisation sites.

Its preferred habitat of limestone cliff crevices and ledges is also scarce.

Distribution in Britain

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
Wales	S. Breconshire	2	20

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 National Botanic Garden of Wales
- 2 Swansea Botanic Garden
- 3 Dyffryn Gardens

Gardens with specialisation on genus *Sorbus*

Batsford Arboretum
Cambridge University Botanic Garden
Dawyck Botanic Garden
Granada Arboretum
Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens
Savill & Valley Gardens
Sheffield Park Gardens
Treborth Botanic Garden
University of Bristol Botanic Garden
University of Durham Botanic Garden
Westonbirt Arboretum
Winkworth Arboretum
Younger Botanic Garden, Benmore

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

Saplings are fairly vigorous when established in cultivation from seeds (Proctor & Groenhof, 1992).

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

A Species Action Plan has been produced for *S. leyana*, lead partner is Quentin Kay, National Botanic Garden of Wales.

Habitat Management

Both sites are protected in SSSIs.

Conservation programmes

Six nursery-grown saplings were planted at one of its sites by the Forestry Commission in 1962; four of these were still present in March 1996.

A specimen has been planted at the Forest Enterprise Garw Nant Visitor Centre.

Web References

- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- UK Species Action Plan: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=579>