

Maianthemum bifolium (L.) F.W. Schmidt

May Lily

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Liliaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Rhizomatous herb (perennial).

Habitat

Ground layer of *Quercus-Betula* woodlands.

Reasons for decline

Distribution in wild

| Country | Locality & Vice County | Sites (10km ² occurrences) | Population (plants) |
|---------|---|--|------------------------|
| England | Fulsby Wood, N. Lincolnshire Cockrah Wood, N.E. Yorkshire Hunstanworth, Co Durham | 1 1 1 | At least 3 populations |

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 Moor Bank Botanic Gardens
- 2 University of Durham Botanic Garden
- 3 RHS Harlow Carr
- 4 Harewood House Trust
- 5 Yorkshire Museum & Gardens
- 6 City of Leeds Botanic Gardens
- 7 University of Hull Botanic & Experimental Garden
- 8 Sheffield Botanical Gardens

Gardens with specialisation on family Liliaceae

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Westbourne

Cliveden

Exeter University

Harris Garden

Inverewe Garden

Ness Botanic Gardens

RBG Kew

Trebah Garden Trust

Treborth Botanic Garden

Potential to grow the species in *ex situ* Collections

Known in cultivation.

In the wild flowering and seed-set is poor.

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Seed - best sown quite thinly it as soon as it is ripe in a cold frame, it should germinate in the spring.

Stored seed should be sown in late winter in a cold frame, it might take 18 months to germinate. Allow

the seedlings to grow on in the pot for their first year, giving liquid feeds as necessary to ensure that

they do not go hungry. Divide the plants into individual pots once they have died down in late

summer. Grow them on in pots for another year or more until large enough to plant out.

Division as new growth commences in the spring. Larger clumps can be replanted direct into their permanent positions, though it is best to pot up smaller clumps and grow them on in a cold frame until they are rooting well. Plant them out in the spring.

- Cultivation details

Requires a cool shady moist but not wet position. Plants tolerate warm summers only if the soil remains moist. A mat forming plant, it can be invasive in good conditions. The flowers are sweetly scented.

Conservation information

Linkages to BAPs

Working for Wildlife; The Northumberland BAP

Northumberland National Park

Action For Wildlife – The Durham Biodiversity Plan (LBAP Areas)

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *Maianthemum bifolium* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Known conservation programmes

Unknown

Web References

- NBN Gateway database : <http://www.searchnbn.net>
- Plants For A Future database: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Maianthemum+canadense