

**mountain laurel** [Ericaceae](#) *Kalmia latifolia* L.  symbol:  
KALA



**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, evergreen, elliptical, 2 to 5 inches long, entire margin, pointed tip, mid-vein raised on upper surfaces, shiny/waxy green above, yellow green below.

**Flower:** Species is monoecious; very showy clusters (3 to 6 inches across), white to rose colored with purple markings, each flower 1 inch across, with the petals forming a distinct firm bowl around the pistil and stamens, appear in late spring and early summer.

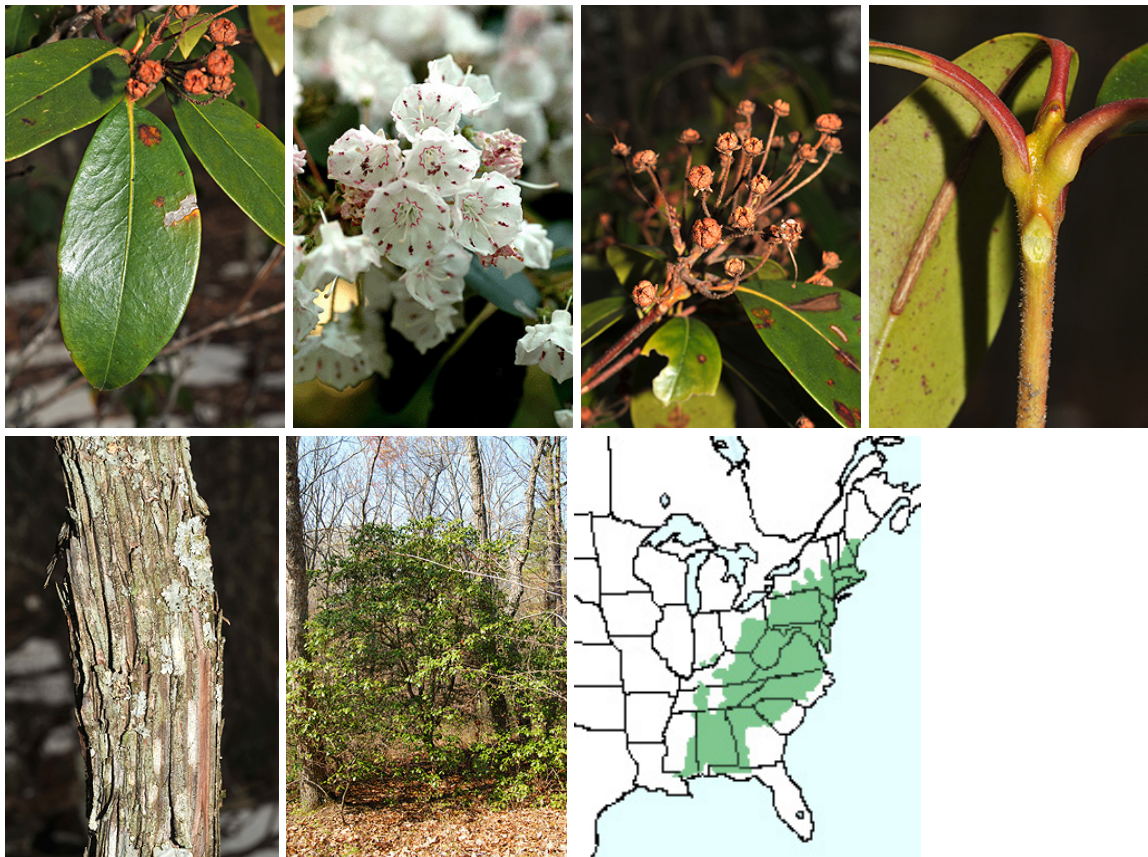
**Fruit:** A round, brown dehiscent capsule, 1/4 inch long, splitting into 5 valves when dry, occur in open clusters; releasing very small seeds when mature in the fall.

**Twig:** Generally forked and twisted, green or red when young, later brownish red, leaves cluster at branch tips.

**Bark:** Thin, dark brown to red in color, shredding and splitting on old stems.

**Form:** A small tree or shrub with many twisted stems reaching up to 10 feet tall in mountains (occasionally 25 feet on Piedmont of southeastern U.S.)

**Looks like:** [mountain pieris](#) - [great rhododendron](#) - [sheep laurel](#)



**Additional Range Information:**  
*Kalmia latifolia* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting mountain laurel.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)

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Photos and Text by: John Seiler, Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera, and John Peterson.