

Inter-Tribal Forest Adaptation

Honoring our forest communities on a changing landscape



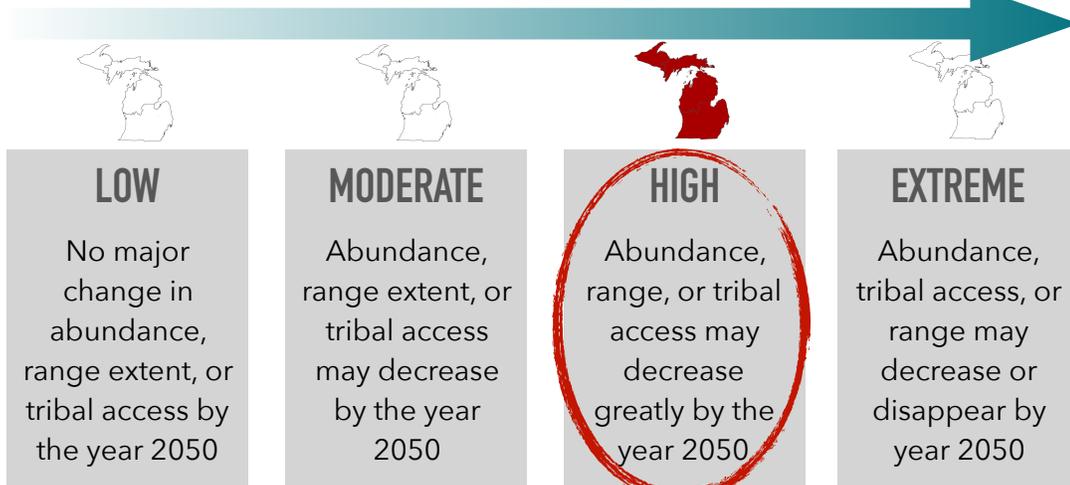
Opin; Pen

Ground nut; Wild potato (*Apios americana*)

Opin is a perennial twining plant with fragrant, brown-purple flowers that bloom from mid-summer to early fall. They are native to North America and grow in a wide variety of habitats: forested swamps, along streams, marshes, and meadows. Opin grows edible tubers along underground rhizomes that have been a staple food for Great Lakes Anishinaabek. These tubers are also the main way that Opin reproduces and grows in new places.

How vulnerable is Opin to climate-driven change in Michigan?

VULNERABILITY RATING



Growth

Opin reproduces by tubers and sometimes by seed.



Habitat

Opin grows in swamps, stream-sides, marshes, and meadows.



Harvest

Opin tubers and seeds are harvested and eaten like other potatoes and peas.

Changes in climate may impact how and where Opin grows

Climate-driven changes	Possible impacts on Opin	Questions to discuss
<p>Extreme storms Heavy storms have increased in number and intensity and may continue increasing in the future. These storms may cause flooding.</p>	<p>Small patches of Opin may be completely removed by large floods.</p> <p>Large patches of Opin may benefit from floods that move tubers to grow in new places.</p>	<p>How large or small are patches of Opin locally?</p> <p>Have recent storms changed how or where Opin grows?</p>
Other considerations	Possible impacts on Opin	Questions to discuss
<p>Dependence on pollinators Opin are pollinated by a few kinds of bees, which may be vulnerable to climate-driven changes.</p>	<p>If the few kinds of bees that pollinate Opin decline, Opin flowers may not be pollinated and will not produce seeds. This may lower Opin reproduction and health.</p>	<p>Have there been changes in local bee populations? Have there been changes in how much Opin produces seed?</p>

Working together to support native forest understory plants

Michigan Tribes maintain important knowledges on local forests, waters, seasons, and cycles. The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan is working with the Bay Mills Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and Northern Institute for Applied Climate Science to understand and support forest understory plants on tribal lands and across the region.



For more information or to get involved, contact:

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