PYROLACEAE (ERICACEAE)

Pyrola asarifolia Michx.

Pyas

common pink wintergreen, alpine pyrola

FORM: Evergreen, perennial, rhizomatous forb; glabrous flowering stems 15-40cm (6-16in) tall with 1-3 inconspicuous bracts below the inflorescence.

LEAVES: Numerous basal leaves with petioles usually at least as long as the blades; simple, entire, circular to elliptic, leathery, shiny dark green above, often purplish-brown beneath, 3-8cm (1-3in) wide, no white mottling along midveins.

FLOWERS: Pink to rose or purplish-red, 10-15mm broad, with a strongly curved style, 5-8mm long, 10 to 25 nodding flowers in elongate terminal racemes; June-Sept.

FRUIT: Capsule, 6-8mm broad.