# SPECIES OF BRAS D'OR

# **BUNCHBERRY**

**QUATRE-TEMPS** WSO'QMANAQJI'L

Bunchberry, also known as Creeping Dogwood, is a creeping perennial plant that grows in mat-like clusters on the forest floor. There are 6 leaves oppositely arranged around a 4-petaled white flower. In the late summer, these flowers turn into round, bright red berries with large seeds inside.

### **THREATS**

Habitat destruction and over-browsing can pose a risk to bunchberry populations.

## **HISTORY**

Although Canada has no official flower, bunchberry was voted as Canada's unofficial national flower!

Bunchberry is incredibly important as a food for foraging mammals and birds in our ecosystems, as well as humans. Bunchberry can be made into pudding and jams as it is rich in pectin.

Bunchberry is so prevalent in Canada, it has many different Indigenous names. Some translations include "rabbit berry," "frog's grass" and "gravel inside," referencing the large seeds inside of the plant's berries!





