

## WHO EATS BERRIES IN THE TUNDRA?

Many bird species, including Canada geese and snow bunting





Small mammals, such as the Ungava lemming



Large mammal species, including red fox, black bear...





... and you!

## WHY DO PLANTS PRODUCE BERRIES?

Plants produce berries, which contain seeds, to reproduce.

Plants can either reproduce sexually (by seeds) or asexually (by clonal growth).

While asexual reproduction can maintain a species in its environment, colonizing new regions requires newly produced seeds.

Producing large and nourishing berries attracks animals.

By eating berries and releasing seeds via their feces, animals help plant species to reach and colonise new regions.

It's a win-win situation: animals get to meet their nutritional needs and plants get to colonize new regions!







## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON BERRY PLANTS**





Changes in shrub cover between 1988 and 2008, in the vicinity of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

Warmer temperatures in the summer have promoted the growth of erect shrub species such as dwarf birch, a phenomenon referred to as "shrubification".

High and dense dwarf birch cover has a negative impact on low-growing berry plants, including a decrease in the production of berries.

These findings are in line with concerns voiced by community members.

Photo credits Canada goose <sup>®</sup>Andreas Trepte; Snow bunting <sup>®</sup>Mishalisk; Ungava lemming <sup>®</sup>Andrev Zvoznikov; Red fox <sup>®</sup>Sandra Angers-Blondin; Black bear <sup>®</sup>Ignacio Yûfera; blueberry/cranberry/cloudberry <sup>®</sup>Josée Gérin-Lajoie; Kangiqsualujjuaq <sup>®</sup>Marcel Blondeau and Benoit Tremblay.

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