



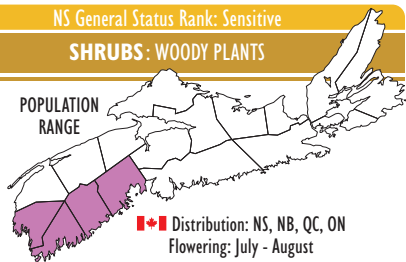
## Buttonbush

*Cephalanthus occidentalis*

NS General Status Rank: Sensitive

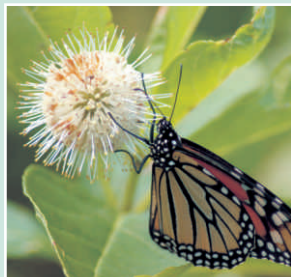
SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION  
RANGE



Flowers and whorled leaves

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Monarch feeding on flowers

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Small shrub

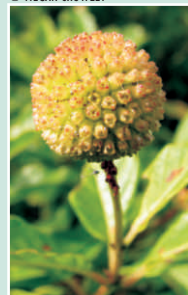
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Unopened flower button



Sphere of flowers



Spent flowers

**SIZE:** 1-3 m tall.

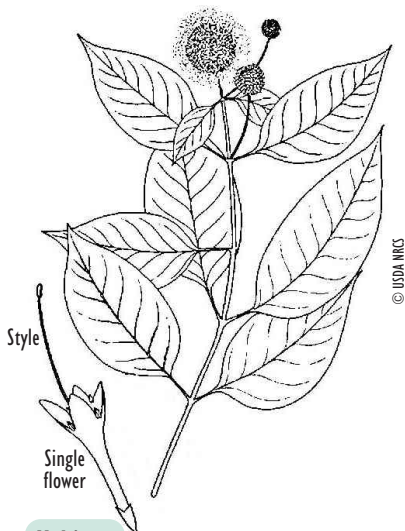
**LEAVES:** Bright green and shiny above, paler below, 8-15 cm long and up to 7 cm wide. Egg-shaped (ovate) with smooth or wavy leaf edges that narrow to a point. Paired (opposite) or circularly arranged (whorled) around the stem.

**STEM:** Gray-brown coloured (green-brown when young). Twigs round and marked with light, slightly raised pores (lenticels).

**FLOWERS:** On flower stalks (pedicels) that emerge from where the leaf attaches to the stem (axil). At the top of the flower stalk there is a sphere (2-4 cm wide) covered with many small, white 4-petaled flowers (5-8 mm long petals) that have long styles with swollen yellow tips (stigmas).

**FRUITS:** Round, 5 mm wide, splits into 2 or 4 brown nutlets.

**NOTES:** The top of this shrub can get chopped off by ice scour. Look for small plants along the shore as well.



**Habitat:**

Lake and river shorelines and wetlands (swamps, bogs).

**Interesting point:** Its name comes from the unopened flowers looking like buttons.

**Similar species:** None.