



Northern Bayberry

Myrica pensylvanica

NS General Status Rank: Secure

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS



© MEGAN CROWLEY

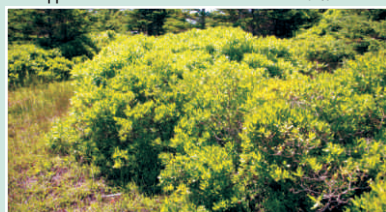


Leaf upper and undersides © MEGAN CROWLEY



Fruits

© ALAIN BELLIVEAU



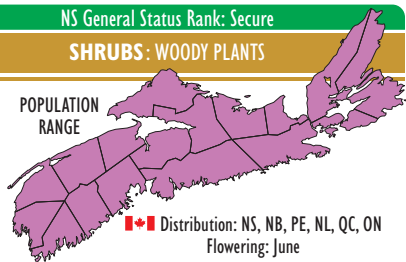
Larger shrub

© MARTIN THOMAS



Twig and buds © ALAIN BELLIVEAU

POPULATION
RANGE



☐ Distribution: NS, NB, PE, NL, QC, ON
Flowering: June

SIZE: 0.5-2.5 m tall.

LEAVES: Obovate to elliptical with smooth leaf edges or a few teeth near the tip, 4-8 cm long and 1.5-3 cm wide. The upper surface is glossy and smooth (generally with white hairs), and the underside is dull.

STEM: Mostly smooth bark. There may be small, white hairs on younger stems.

FLOWERS: Male flowers (catkins) are cylindrical and 6-15 mm long. Female flowers (catkins) are slender and 5-10 mm long. The flowers emerge on older stems with the leaves in the spring.

FRUITS: Small, round, waxy nutlets on the stem, 3.5-5 mm wide, in small clusters.

NOTES: This plant is very fragrant when you crush any part of it. It has only male or only female flowers on an individual plant (dioecious). Also known as *Morella pensylvanica*.



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Fruit

Habitat:

Lakeshores, wetlands (bogs), along the coast (including salt marsh edges) and in upland forests and old fields.

Interesting point: Tea can be made from the roots of this plant, candles from the waxy fruits, and the leaves can be used as a substitute for bay leaves.

Similar species: Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*) has dull leaves and flowers (catkins) that appear before the leaves in the spring. The fruit is not waxy. Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) has smaller leathery leaves (1.5-5 cm long) that are green with pale undersides, and small, round teeth along the edges. Its flowers are small, white, and bell-shaped.



Sweet Gale

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