

# Myrica pensylvanica

Northern Bayberry

Native to Maine

Upland  
Forests and Fields













## Leaves



Derek Ramsey



Look for oval leaves that alternate and have fine teeth near the tip. The waxy leaves are very fragrant with a sweet smell when crushed. Leaves are crowded toward the end of the branch.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

## Plant



dogtooth77, flickr



Look for a broad, dense shrub growing 2 to 3 m tall. It can hold on to its leaves well into fall, but is not evergreen.

## Stem

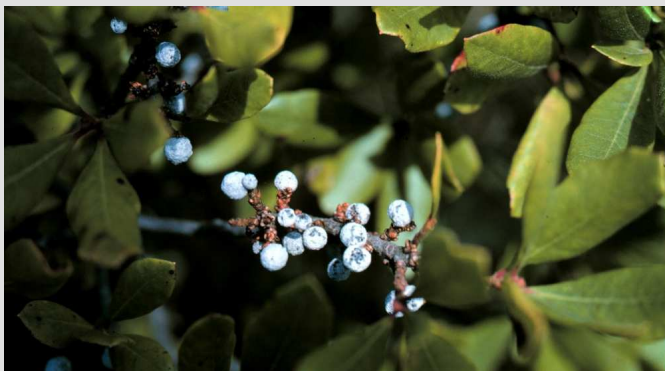


Derek Ramsey



Look for green twigs that turn tan or gray as the branch matures. Look for suckers (new shoots growing up from the roots next to the trunk).

## Seasonal Change



Joan Muller, Waquoit Bay NERR and NOAA



In early spring (March to April) look for small white flowers BEFORE the leaves appear. Small waxy bluish-white berries on short stalks appear in late summer.

## Similar Species

Northern Bayberry is similar to Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), which grows in southern climates and has smaller fruit and narrower, elongated leaves.

## Fun Fact

Settlers boiled berries to collect the wax to scent candles in colonial days. The root of this plant has nodules with nitrogen-fixing microorganisms that allow it to grow in relatively poor soils.

