

LYONIA LIGUSTRINA (L.) DC.
Malberry

FAMILY: Ericaceae

HABIT: Deciduous shrub to 4 m; often spreading from long, horizontal rhizomes; flowers June-July, fruits Aug.-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The foliage closely resembles that of *Gaylussacia baccata* (huckleberry) and various species of *Vaccinium* (blueberry). Mature plants are taller than most species of these genera. Blooming plants are fairly distinctive. *L. ligustrina* is the only Ohio ericaceous shrub with a terminal panicle.

TOTAL RANGE: ME to NY and OH, KY, AR. s. to FL and TX; another variety occurs to the south and west of this range.

STATE RANGE: There are Pre-1980 records from Gallia and Ross Counties.

HABITAT: Borders of swamps and wet woods, usually in acidic situations.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly overshadowing by taller woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: The difficulty of identifying this species suggests that it might still be extant in southern Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering or fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: This shrub could be overlooked unless in flower. It should be sought throughout southern and southeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus OH. 362 pp.

Judd, W.S. 1981. A monograph of *Lyonia*. J. Arnold Arbor. 62: 63-128.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimbürger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 pp.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 1/1985 Allison W. Cusick
Revised: 4/1993 Greg Schneider