

MYRICA PENNSYLVANICA Loisel.
Bayberry

FAMILY: Myricaceae

HABIT: Fragrant woody shrub, 0.5-2 m; flowering May-July; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Myrica pensylvanica*, with its fragrant foliage and waxy grayish-white "berries", is a distinctive shrub. Seedlings, however, might be confused with seedlings of *Comptonia peregrina*.

TOTAL RANGE: Coastal Plain from Newfoundland to NC, and less commonly inland to OH and s. Ontario.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Portage and Summit counties. There is a 1931 record from Ashtabula County.

HABITAT: In Ohio, beaches and alkaline fens; elsewhere in dry or wet sterile soil of the Coastal Plain.

HAZARDS: Alteration of water supply; digging by horticulturists.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown if natural recovery is allowed, but presumed good only if planted in its native habitat. Bailey (1917) describes *Myrica pensylvanica* as a hardy horticultural shrub.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: This shrub can be identified in the vegetative condition. When collecting, care should be taken not to disturb its roots.

COMMENTS: Morris et al. (1974) mention that the roots of *Myrica pensylvanica* possess nitrogen-fixing nodules and that this feature promotes its role as a stabilizer in sterile, sandy soil.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Bailey, L.H. 1917. The standard cyclopedia of horticulture, Vol. IV. The Mac Millan Co., London, England. p. 1761-2421.

Morris, M., D.E. Eveleigh, S.C. Riggs, and W.N. Tiffney, Jr. 1974. Nitrogen fixation in the bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and its role in coastal succession. Am. J. Bot. 61: 867-870.

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



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