

VACCINIUM MYRTILLOIDES Michx.  
Velvet-leaf Blueberry

FAMILY: Ericaceae

HABIT: Deciduous shrub, 0.3-0.7 m.; flowering May-June, fruiting July-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Although many low-bush blueberries are similar, this species is distinctive based on the presence of stiff, dense, bristle-like hairs on the young stems. The fruit has a heavy bloom. It most closely resembles *Vaccinium vacillans*, which has glabrous leaves and branches.

TOTAL RANGE: Transcontinental; Nfld., Que., to B.C., s. to N.S., N.E., w. to PA, n. OH, IN, IL, n. IA, and MT; s. in the mts. to VA.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 records exist from Ashtabula, Geauga and Trumbull counties.

HABITAT: Usually acidic soils in moist woods, swamps, clearings and, rarely, dry upland woods.

HAZARDS: Unknown; possibly overshadowing by other woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor due to its restricted distribution. However, Flinn and Wein (1977) consider this a hardy shrub that survives surface fires.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: The stiff, bristle-like hairs on the young stems separate this species from other Ohio blueberries. Vegetative material can be correctly identified, but fertile specimens are preferred.

COMMENTS: This species should be sought throughout northeastern Ohio where suitable habitats occur

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