



Native Plant of the Year:

Northern Bayberry

Morella pensylvanica (Synonym: *Myrica pensylvanica*)



Unique Characteristics

This versatile shrub tolerates a wide range of soil and growing conditions, including drought and salt spray. Northern Bayberry should be planted in groups to ensure fruiting.

This plant is recommended for landscapes prone to deer damage.

Plant type: deciduous shrub

Native range: Eastern North America

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: dry to medium

Soil: tolerates a wide range of soils; roots have nitrogen-fixing bacteria which enable the plants to grow on soils that are very poor in nitrogen content.

pH: 5.5 to 7.8

Height: 6 to 10 feet

Spread: 3 to 7

Wildlife: provides food and shelter for birds, especially the yellow-rumped warbler

Hardiness zones: 3 to 7

Bloom time: May

Bloom color: yellow

Uses: erosion control; the fragrant fruit provides winter interest and can be used to make aromatic candles; can be used as an alternative to Privet (*Ligustrum* spp.).



Photos courtesy of Bill Hendricks (top) and Ann McCulloh (bottom left and right)

