



Wax Myrtle

Wax Myrtle *(Myrica cerifera)*

Instant ID

- An evergreen shrub or small tree with toothed leaves and multiple, twisted trunks
- Female plants produce small, gray berries on the their stems
- Leaves are olive to dark-green and grow two to four inches long
- Has odor of bayberry candles
- Rarely grows to 25 feet tall

Native Niches

- Native to the coastal plain from southern New Jersey to East Texas
- Found throughout Florida in moist habitats and dunes
- Often in hardwood hammocks and at the shores of freshwater



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Plant Particulars

- Works as a natural insect repellent
- Also known as bayberry and candleberry
- A wax derived from the berries can be used to make candles
- Berries are favored by many bird species

Population Protection

- Wax myrtle makes a great landscaping plant
- Oils in its leaves make it very flammable
- Prescribed fire, performed by the Florida Park Service and other government agencies, is a way to apply natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk

