

Plant Facts

Wax Myrtle - *Morella cerifera*

Other Common Names: Southern Wax Myrtle, Southern Bayberry, Bayberry, Tallow Shrub, Candleberry
Formerly known as: *Myrica cerifera*



"Southern Wax Myrtle *Myrica cerifera* habit summer" by Cossey25 is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

WAX MYRTLE or SOUTHERN BAYBERRY

Morella cerifera (fka *Myrica cerifera*)

Evergreen Shrub

Bird, Butterfly Friendly 



Full Sun/Part Shade

Water: Medium-Wet

10-15'T x 8-10'W Color: **Bloom insignificant, fragrant**

Blooms: Late winter-early spring. Fruit matures late summer.

Dioecious, female may fruit if male plant nearby

Potential fire risk: Leaves & branches contain flammable aromatic compounds.

Grown by a Master Gardener

General Information

A popular, airy, evergreen ornamental shrub or small specimen tree. Native to East/East-Central Texas in sandy swamps and moist woodlands, but adaptable to many soil conditions. Fruit attractive to birds and host plant for Banded and Red-banded Hairstreak butterflies.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 7-10. Evergreen to Zone 8

Size: Up to 20 ft h x 10-15 ft w

Flowers: Small, yellowish-green; inconspicuous

Bloom Time: Spring

Leaves: Alternate, 1.5-3" long, 0.3-0.75" wide. Glossy green to grey-green

Growth Habit/Shape: Large shrub or small multi trunked tree. Fast growth rate.

Dormancy: May lose its leaves in Zone 7

Soil Requirements: Moist, acid, but adaptable

Propagation: Seeds, semi-hardwood or softwood cuttings. Female needs pollination from nearby male for berry production.

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor

Pests and Diseases

None serious; Occasional leaf spot or iron chlorosis in alkaline soils.

Plant Care

Water heavily when first planted, but drought tolerant once established.

Notes

Colonists used berries for candle-making; May lose leaves in Zone 7 depending on winter temps.

Sources for Additional Information

Clemson Cooperative Extension

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/waxmyrtle>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=moce2

Texas A&M Forest Service

<http://texastreeid.tamu.edu/content/TreeDetails/?id=64>