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Common Names:
Northern Bayberry,
Candleberry

Plant Type: Shrub

Light Requirements: Full Sun- Partial Shade

Height: 5-8 ft.

Bloom Time: Spring;
fruits appear in late summer-fall

Hardiness Zone: 3-7

***Myrica pensylvanica* (Bayberry)**

Northern Bayberry is a woody shrub in the Myricaceae family. It is native to North America and is typically found in the northern half of the eastern United States. Bayberry is a slow-growing shrub that can grow anywhere from 5-8 feet tall depending on the conditions. It grows best in full sun and moist, peat or sandy acidic soils, though it will also tolerate clay soils. When conditions are right, it can form dense thickets, which can help with erosion control. It is tolerant of drought and can withstand salt spray, making it a good choice for sites along roadways which require salting in the winter. In addition, Bayberry can tolerate poor and infertile soils since it can fix its own nitrogen.

The leaves of Bayberry are generally glossy and leathery and are aromatic when crushed due to the resin glands on the underside of the leaves. The flowers are insignificant, and pollination requires both male and female species (dioecious). The female flowers, when pollinated, produce waxy berries (called drupes) that birds enjoy throughout the fall and winter. The berries have a waxy coating on them which can be used to make bayberry candles, hence the common name of Candleberry. Northern Bayberry is a larval host plant to the Columbia silkmoth. It is generally considered deer resistant.

References:

<https://woodyplants.cals.cornell.edu/plant/157>

<https://extension.psu.edu/bayberry>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/myrica-pensylvanica/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Tompkins County
www.ccetompkins.org