

Establishment/Management

Establishment:

One to two year old nursery-grown bare root or larger containerized material may be used for planting most sites. Control competing vegetation near new plantings either chemically or by cultivating or roto-tilling. Mulching around new plantings aids in weed control and moisture retention. To assure seed production, both male and female plants must be established in close proximity to one another. Since seedling sex cannot be determined before maturity, several seedlings should be planted in the same area.

Plant spacing for this shrub is based on its intended use. For back dune plantings, space plants two to three foot apart; for a wildlife hedge or field border, a three- to four-foot spacing is adequate.

Fertility:

Fertilization is generally not necessary and may promote more competition. A pH of 6.0-6.5 is preferred.

Management:

Dune and natural area plantings should be allowed to grow naturally with no pruning or maintenance. The plant will spread over time by root suckering. This process is even more pronounced in accumulating sands. In a landscaped setting, some minimal pruning is tolerated without reducing plant vigor. However, heavy pruning or confining may lead to reduced vigor and die back.

Pests:

No known diseases or pests dramatically affect this species.

Opportunities to Participate

NRCS Field Offices, District Employees, Partners and Volunteers: We need your help!

The Cape May PMC serves a nine-state area extending from Massachusetts to North Carolina. The plant developmental process relies heavily on the cooperation of our conservation partners to locate native plant stands; collect materials and ship them to Cape May; locate suitable plant testing sites and collect plant performance data to assist in publishing new scientific findings. Call the Cape May PMC for more details about how you can help.

Foundation Material Available

Seedlings of 'Wildwood' are available to commercial growers. Seed is also available through the Cape-Atlantic Soil Conservation District for a nominal fee.

For further information contact us:

**Cape May Plant Materials Center
1536 Route Nine North**

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Tele: (609) 465-5901 Fax: (609) 465-9284

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'Wildwood' Bayberry

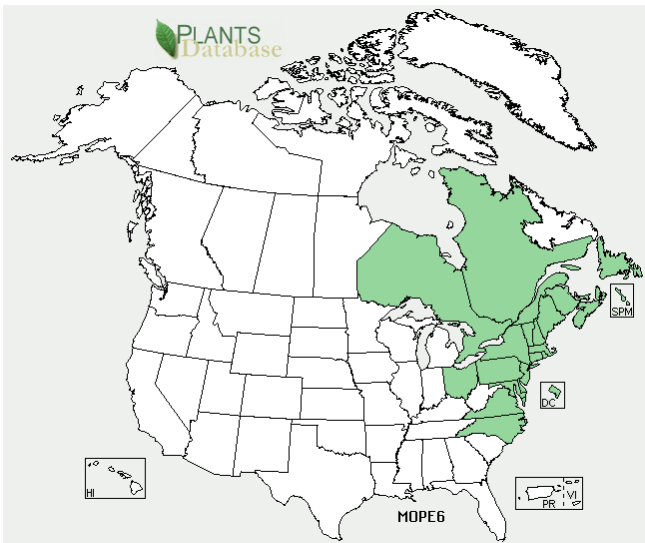
Morella pensylvanica
(*Mirbel.*)
Kartesz

*Cape May PMC products are
helping people help the land
through better plants and science*

Bayberry



Source: Brooklyn Botanic Garden.



Species Distribution Map

Description

‘Wildwood’ Bayberry

‘Wildwood’ Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*) originates from a cross of four superior strains selected for their exceptional seedling vigor, survival rate, foliage abundance, and high level of insect and disease resistance. The states of origin of these four strains are New Jersey and North Carolina. The ‘Wildwood’ selection has been field tested on dune sites from Delaware to Massachusetts with little or no performance variation of the parent plant. The cultivar was released to commercial growers in 1992.

Plant Species Description:

‘Wildwood’ Bayberry is an upright, salt tolerant woody shrub forming thickets 6-7 feet in height, less in exposed seashore conditions. The aromatic dark-green leaves, 2.5 - 4 inches long, may hang on the twigs through most of the winter. The clusters of waxy gray-white fruit develop from inconspicuous flowers which bloom in the early spring from second-year stems. The fruit ripens in October and remains on the plant well into winter. This species is dioecious, meaning there are separate male and female plants. Once this shrub has become well established, it will slowly creep with rhizomes forming dense thickets. This plant fixes atmospheric nitrogen which helps it survive in stressed environments, such as sand dunes and other sterile soil conditions.

‘Wildwood’ as a Windbreak



Adaptation

Although indigenous to the Mid-Atlantic coastal strip, bayberry also occurs on more inland sites. It is well adapted to droughty sites with moderately fertile, slightly acidic, loamy and sandy soils. Bayberry does not perform well on heavy clay soils, but will tolerate moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained conditions. ‘Wildwood’ is geographically adapted from Plant Hardiness Zones 5a to 8b.

Application and Uses

Bayberry is used primarily for stabilizing secondary coastal sand dunes. Because of its late winter leaf and fruit retention, it offers a good protective cover and food source for many species of song and game birds. In agricultural applications ‘Wildwood’ can be utilized as a medium sized windbreak or field border. When used as a residential foundation planting, it can tolerate moderate trimming.