

Morella cerifera

Wax myrtle



Source:

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of Agriculture.

NC State Extension. *Find a Plant*. North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox. For more information visit their website.

The Bayberry Family (Myricaceae)

This evergreen shrub reaches 20-25 feet tall; has alternate, simple, glossy leaves with serrated tips; leaves are aromatic when crushed; and it is tolerant of high winds.

Habitat: It prefers medium to wet soils in full sun, but can grow in many environments and is found across the southeastern U.S.

Interesting Facts: Due to its high tolerance of salt sprays, this tree can be grown in seaside areas or close to roads that are salted in the winter. This tree can also be a fire hazard due to flammable chemicals found within the leaves.

Fruit: The fruit is blueish-gray to white drupe found August-October; and grows in clusters of 2-6.

Flower: It has small, fragrant, green flowers that bloom in April.

Wildlife value: The fruits are consumed by birds, especially the yellow-rumped warbler, which can digest the waxy seed and aid in seed dispersal.