

# ***Vaccinium arboreum***

## **Farkleberry**



### **Sources:**

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

NC State Extension. *Find a Plant*. North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox.

The Heath Family (Ericaceae)

This small evergreen shrub reaches 10-20 feet tall; has alternate, smooth leaves; older twigs are gray and young twigs are reddish-brown. It is drought and heat tolerant.

**Habitat:** The tree prefers dry to moist sandy or rocky soil; does well in sun or partial shade; and is found across the southeastern U.S.

**Interesting Facts:** This plant is also often called “sparkleberry.”

**Fruit:** The fruit is black berry-like fruit; matures in fall; each berry contains up to 10 seeds; and can be found September-October.

**Flower:** The flower has small, white, bell-shaped flowers; and blooms late spring to early summer.

**Wildlife value:** The berries are eaten by many types of wildlife, including songbirds, wild turkeys and black bears. There are also many pollinators that feed on this plant’s nectar.