



SWEET GALE CARE

LIGHT

Sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), also called bog myrtle, grows in full sun or partial shade. Give this aromatic, deciduous shrub room to form a natural group. It suits damp borders and wetland-style plantings better than a hot, dry foundation bed.

WATER

Provide dependable moisture. Check newly planted root balls frequently in dry or windy weather and water deeply before they dry out. This shrub tolerates waterlogged soil; do not assume that the drought tolerance of northern bayberry applies to sweet gale.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose a moist, humus-rich soil and plant at the original nursery depth. Match the planting place to its moisture needs rather than expecting occasional light watering to compensate for a dry site. Mulch around the roots without burying the crown.

FEEDING

Avoid routine heavy fertilizer applications. Use a soil test to guide feeding if growth is weak, and first check whether the root ball is staying moist. Keep lawn fertilizer away from the planting and follow label directions for any fertilizer used.

SEASONAL CARE

Allow the natural branching habit to develop; regular hard cutting is unnecessary. Remove dead, damaged, or poorly placed branches selectively. Watch the edges of the planting for suckers and remove unwanted shoots if the colony needs to stay within a defined area.

HELPFUL TIPS

Spring catkins and aromatic leaves are characteristic; winter leaf drop is normal. Lowboy is a compact selection, but still needs room to spread. This guide covers *Myrica gale* only. Northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) has its own guide and different moisture tolerance.