



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

NORTHERN BAYBERRY CARE

LIGHT

Northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*, also called *Morella pensylvanica*) grows best in full sun. Allow room for a broad, rounded shrub and possible suckering spread. It suits informal screens and naturalized plantings better than a narrow bed that requires continual shearing.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and check the original root ball during establishment. Established shrubs tolerate drought, wind and coastal exposure, but young plants still need watering during dry spells. Water deeply rather than often and lightly, while allowing excess moisture to move away.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in garden soil suited to the site. Bayberry adapts to sandy, acidic and relatively poor soils and tolerates varied moisture conditions. Mulch around the roots while leaving stem bases uncovered. Allow space for developing colonies and nearby access.

FEEDING

Routine heavy fertilization is unnecessary. Use a soil test before adding nutrients or altering pH. If a deficiency is confirmed, apply a modest amount of suitable fertilizer according to the label. Check roots, moisture and planting depth before treating weak growth with extra feeding.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune selectively only as needed to remove damaged stems or maintain the planting boundary. Flowers and fruit occur on older growth, so heavy shearing reduces the berry display. Retain a natural framework and remove unwanted suckers where a colony is not desired.

HELPFUL TIPS

Female plants need suitable male pollination for the waxy gray berries. An unidentified plant's sex may not be obvious until flowering. Winter leaf loss is normal in cold climates. This guide covers northern bayberry; sweet gale and southern wax myrtle need separate identification and care.