Bayberry
(Myrica pensylvanica)

6-10' billowing shrub.

CT native, found in dunes, dry forests, slopes, swamp margins.

Semi-evergreen dark gray-green 2” leaves turn mahogany in fall, and tend to persist into winter.

Abundant spiraling clusters of waxy gray berries, September-April, on female plants.
(But we don’t know which are female.)

Fruit and all parts of plant are very aromatic when crushed.

Sun, tolerates light shade.
Tolerant of a wide range of moisture levels and soil types.
Tough and adaptable, tolerates wind, dry slopes, roadsides, salt.
Once established can form mounding colonies.

Use for massing, informal hedges, screening, habitat restoration, bank stabilization, rough areas.
Fruit can be used to make bayberry candles.

Fruit and shelter for birds, preferred food of bluebirds, tree swallows, finches.
Attractive to over 100 Butterfly species. Larval host for Red-banded Hairstreak Butterfly and Columbia Silk moth.

Photos 1, 2, 10
Pat Breen, Oregon State University
Department of Horticulture
landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/myrica-pensylvanica
Photos 4, 7
UConn Plant Database
hort.uconn.edu/plants
Photos 3, 5, 8, 9
N. Central Conservation District Photo
Photo 6
Broken Arrow Nursery
brokenarrownursery.com/myrica-pensylvanica-morella-pensylvanica-northern-bayberry.html