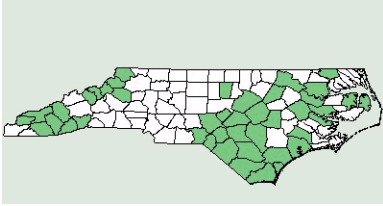


HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY

Vaccinium corymbosum

Edible blueberries and a nice fall display of red leaves make this plant a favorite. Also known as whortleberry, swamp blueberry



Description: An upright medium to large shrub with several main stems and red or green twigs with an open crown. Bark is gray brown to reddish brown. Flowers are small, white, bell-shaped, in clusters, appearing in spring. Fruit is a dark blue berry that ripens May-June.

Natural Habitat: Grows in bogs, pocosins and pine barrens throughout the Eastern U.S. and along the Gulf coast.

Conservation Status: Endangered in Illinois.

Size: 6-12' tall

Growth Rate: Fast

Light: Full sun, intolerant of shade

Planting and Care: Grows best in moist, acidic, well-aerated, highly-organic soils and can withstand extended periods of flooding. Prune in winter, cutting out dead or damaged branches. In spring, feed with sulphate of ammonia, sulphate of potash and bone meal.

Ornamental Value: An attractive autumn display of bright red leaves. Flowers from March to May, bearing small, white urn-shaped flowers with fused petals.

Landscape Usage: Useful in a shrub border, naturalized plantings along the edges of ponds and waterways. The density of the branches makes it a good screen or hedge as well as a specimen plant in the garden.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: Often used in jelly and pies. Native Americans and English settlers boiled them with sugar for sauce to eat with their meat.

Wildlife Benefits: Birds, black bears and by many small mammals enjoy the fruit. Deer and rabbits browse on the twigs and foliage.