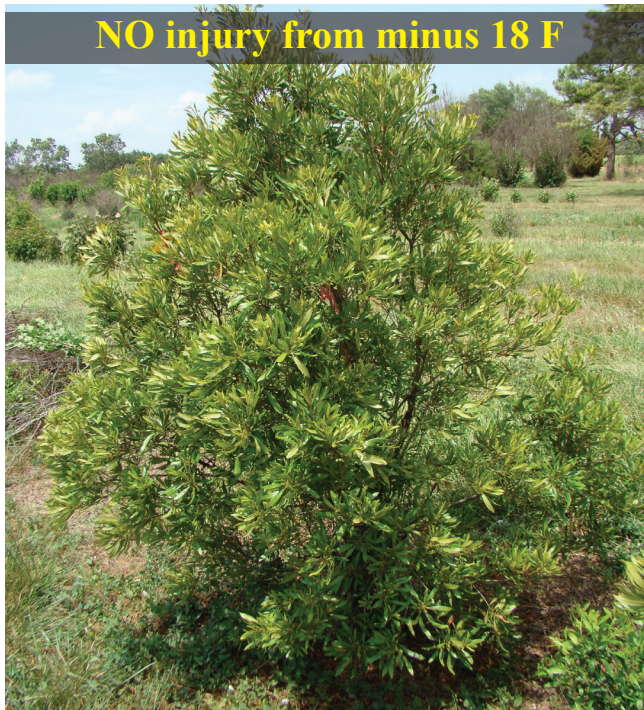


# Northern Exposure®

Southern Waxmyrtle or Bayberry, *Myrica cerifera*, Whit XXIX

## A New Introduction from the 'Whit' Cultivars Collection

**NO injury from minus 18 F**



Southern wax myrtle is a small, aromatic, evergreen shrub or small tree. Native populations exist from east Texas, across the south and northward to New Jersey, mostly in low lying areas where competition is limited. Grows typically single or multiple stemmed plants, ranging from 10 to 20 feet or more. Responds well to pruning and is often used as an evergreen hedge or screen. (Note; wax myrtle is indeed a myrtle and is in the Myricaceae/myrtle family so it is appropriate to list as two words.) Southern wax myrtle has the unique benefit of having a symbiotic relationship with a bacterium that fixes nitrogen. This allows the small tree to grow well on sites with poor soils, especially deep sands.



Northern Exposure® was selected because it was unaffected by -18 F cold. Unlike wax myrtle grown from seeds that have variable tolerance for cold and winter conditions in

general, Northern Exposure® remains dark green all winter in northern Oklahoma. Southern wax myrtle are dioecious, meaning male and female plants, but at 8 years of age, Northern Exposure® has yet to flower.



Another desirable feature of Northern Exposure® is that foliage is especially dense which provides additional reduction when screening objects and noise when used as a buffer. In studies using a four-cycle engine lawn mower and automobile moving past at a given speed, southern wax myrtle was especially effective due to the broad, flat leaves and foliage density.



Propagation of Northern Exposure® from cuttings works well during the growing season and young liners grow with a single stem, which is good for stem strength, but with light pruning, multiple branches develop. In addition, Northern Exposure® retains good foliage during winter, making a pleasant screen.

