

Botanical Name: Myrica californica

Common Name: Pacific wax myrtle, California wax myrtle

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub-small Character evergreen
tree

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a large shrub with a densely rounded growth habit; becomes
treelike in shadier, well-watered locations (appearance is similar to
Heteromeles); bark is smooth, light gray-tan

Height 10'- 20' (25') Spread equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors tolerates full sun near the coast; prefers some shading at
hot inland sites

Soil tolerates most; prefers well-draining locations

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-6, 14-17, 20-24): thrives in mild coastal-
zone sites

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oblong or oblanceolate; dark green and
glossy above, paler beneath, 3"-5" long; margins serrate

Flowers small, inconspicuous, unisexual; in catkins

Fruit a small drupe-like nut, 1/4" diameter; brown, with a waxy
coating

Propagation: seed

Usage: an excellent plant for large screening - can be sheared as
a formal hedge; can be easily pruned into a small tree

Landscape Care:

Watering little watering needed in coastal-zone climates; at inland
sites the plant benefits from an occasional deep soak (14-21 days)

Fertilizing little is needed after establishment

Pruning to shape desired, as needed; selectively heading back is
preferable to shearing for a full uniform appearance

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions foliage may get sunburned at hot inland sites
coastal canyons of central Calif.

Origin: to Wash. Family: Myricaceae