

ATLANTIC  
COASTALPLAIN  
FLORA

# Eastern Baccharis

*Baccharis hamifolia*

## STATUS

Not Listed



Not Listed



Threatened



Threatened



Not Listed



Male flowers

© ALAIN BELLEAU

## Species Description

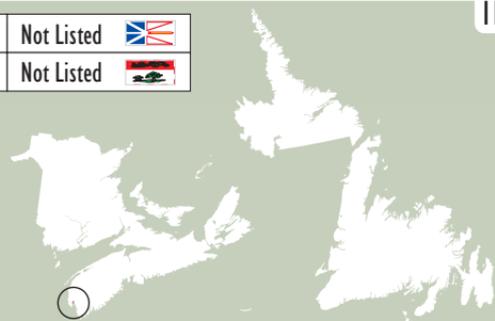
Eastern Baccharis is a woody shrub, 1-3 m tall, with numerous branches. It has greyish-green alternately arranged egg-shaped leaves (up to 6 cm long and 4 cm wide), which contain a few large teeth on the upper half. Its numerous flower clusters contain only male or female flowers on each individual shrub (dioecious). Female flowers are whitish with prominent straight bristles and male flowers are yellowish with slender, threadlike petals.



Female flowers in seed

© MEGAN CROWLEY

Fewer than 3000 shrubs are located in Yarmouth County in southwest Nova Scotia.



## Habitat

Eastern Baccharis grows near the coast in the upper section of open or semi-open salt marshes. Its location at the southern tip of Nova Scotia provides a milder winter climate and it is often found in bays or coves that offer some shelter from severe storms. It is salt water tolerant and can bear periodic flooding but cannot withstand prolonged submersion.



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In Canada, Eastern Baccharis is only known within a 25 kilometre range of salt marsh habitat near the southern tip of Nova Scotia. Its flowers can be observed from late July to late September.

## Interesting Points

- The closest population is over 400 km away in Massachusetts.
- This species was first observed in Canada in 1999 by R. R. Fielding.
- Other common names for this species include Groundseltree, Sea-myrtle, Saltbush and Silverling.



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## Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (ACPF)

These 13 remaining plant species are part of a special group of called Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora (ACPF) and are **found nowhere else in Canada!** ACPF refers to a group of unrelated plants that are primarily along the Atlantic Coast from Florida to Nova Scotia. Over 90 ACPF species in Nova Scotia are concentrated in the southwest, and are mainly found along inland lake and river shores, in wetlands and in coastal marshes. Almost half are assessed as 'at risk' or 'sensitive' by the NS General Status Ranks and need our help to make sure they are not lost from this province.



Look for this symbol in each of the species' "How You Can Help" section for the 13 top ways to help this special group.

## Similar Species

There are no species similar to Eastern Baccharis in salt marsh habitats.

## Threats to Survival

- Coastal development (habitat loss and shrub removal).
- Restricted geographic range (vulnerability to quick, large-scale declines).
- Climate change and sea level rise (all plants within 2 m of sea level).

## How You Can Help 1 of 13

Learn to recognize ACPF species and the habitats they depend on. View the ACPF Identification and Information Guide for pictures and descriptions of the 90+ species that call Nova Scotia home. You can download a pdf of this guide online at [www.speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca). On the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora link you can learn more about ACPF including:

- online photo gallery
- interactive and printable maps highlighting where lakeshore species occur in NS (under "data and maps")
- water quality data
- volunteer opportunities and more!



Learn more in the ACPF Identification guide!

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NS DNR (902) 679-6091

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)

**Stewardship:** Nova Scotia Nature Trust: [nature@nsnt.ca](mailto:nature@nsnt.ca), MTRI: [info@merseytobeatic.ca](mailto:info@merseytobeatic.ca)