

# Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

## Great Lakes Region bayberry - cottonwood community (also a shrubland type)

In Pennsylvania this community type occurs only on Presque Isle. This community type is dominated by a mixture of trees and shrubs. Characteristic species include *Myrica pensylvanica* (bayberry), *Amelanchier* spp. (shadbush), *Salix* spp. (willows), *Cornus* spp. (dogwoods), *Populus deltoides* (cottonwood), and the exotic species *Betula pendula*<sup>I</sup> (European white birch) and *Lonicera morrowii*<sup>I</sup> (Morrow's honeysuckle). Herbaceous species include *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass), *Rumex acetosella*<sup>I</sup> (sheep sorrel), *Panicum uirgatum* (switch grass), *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem), *Carex tonsa* (a sedge), and *C. muhlenbergii* (a sedge). This type includes both shrubland and woodland physiognomy. Because of the extremely dynamic nature of this system, a variety of successional stages are main-tained in a complex mosaic. This community type is part of the "Great Lakes Region beach - dune - sandplain complex."

**Related types:** Because of the extremely dynamic nature of this system, the hydrology, physiognomy, and species composition of these sites may shift dramatically over short periods of time. Lake level changes, storm action, and shifting sands cause this community type to intergrade in space and time with the "Great Lakes Region dry sandplain," the "Great Lakes Region palustrine sandplain," "Great Lakes Region bayberry -mixed shrub palustrine shrubland" and, to a lesser extent, "Great Lakes Region sparsely vegetated beach." For more information on the ecology these community types, see the description of the "Great Lakes Region beach - dune - sandplain complex."

**Range:** Great Lakes Region.

**Selected references:** Bissell and Bier 1987.

**[Crosswalk:** Smith's "Eastern Great Lakes Dune

Community," TNC - no crosswalk, SAF - no crosswalk (the Cottonwood (63) type is closest).]