

Rose Maritime Shrubland

State Rank S4

Community Description

Medium height shrubs (1-2 m) usually cover 30-60% but may form dense thickets. Bayberry and roses are characteristic; raspberry and poison ivy are frequent associates. On some islands, shrublands are dominated by raspberry or bush-honeysuckle, with little or no bayberry or rose. Wild-raisin and winterberry may occur in more protected or moist pockets. Lowbush blueberry and northern dewberry are occasional as dwarf shrubs. Herbs grow in sometimes extensive patches among the shrubs and include salt tolerant shore species such as beach grass, beach-pea, sea-beach sandwort, seabeach angelica, and seaside goldenrod. Bryoids are absent, except for small amounts of lichens in some areas.

Soil and Site Characteristics

The islands where this type occurs are exposed to onshore winds and salt spray; sometimes covering extensive areas on stabilized dunes or rocky islands. Except on dunes, soils are thin, usually less than 25 cm deep, and acidic (pH 4.8-5.5).



Virginia Rose

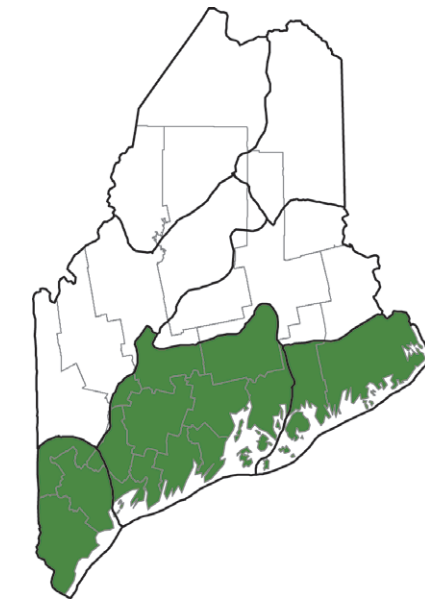
Diagnostics

This type is typified by a seaside setting and dominance of upland shrubs (> about 1 m tall), particularly bayberry and roses, with cover >20%.

Similar Types

Crowberry - Bayberry Headlands can share many species, but have dwarf shrub cover more abundant than taller shrub cover and lack poison-ivy. Other sandy beach community types can be adjacent to Rose - Bayberry Maritime Shrublands and share some species, but have different physiognomy: Pitch Pine Dune Woodlands have a tree canopy of >25%; Dune Grasslands are dominated by grasses, not shrubs; and Beach Strands are sparsely vegetated with herbs and no shrubs.

Location Map



Community is known from this Ecoregion
 Community may occur in this Ecoregion
 Bailey's Ecoregion
 County



Bayberry Leaves

Conservation, Wildlife, and Management Considerations

Most known sites have been used historically for grazing sheep. Evidence of fire is common in most. Rugosa rose is an invasive species of these sites. The extent to which this community has developed as an artifact of clearing and grazing is unknown and would be an interesting study (along with successional dynamics). At least some small sites along the immediate coastline appear to have developed by and are persisting through natural processes. Several occurrences are on public lands or private conservation lands.

Maritime shrubland communities, especially those that occur on uninhabited islands, may provide nesting habitat for some oceanic bird species, such as the Atlantic puffin, razorbill, and Leach's storm-petrel. Coastal breeders such as the common eider, black duck, and herring and great black-backed gulls may also use this habitat in appropriate settings.

Distribution

Along Maine's immediate coastline and islands (Laurentian Mixed Forest Province).

Landscape Pattern: Small Patch

Characteristic Plants

These plants are frequently found in this community type. Those with an asterisk are often diagnostic of this community.

Sapling/shrub

Bayberry*
 Bush-honeysuckle*
 Meadowsweet*
 Poison-ivy*
 Red raspberry*
 Rugosa rose*
 Virginia rose*
 Winterberry holly*

Dwarf Shrub

Large cranberry*
 Lowbush blueberry*

Herb

Beach grass*
 Canada mayflower*
 Greene's rush*
 New York aster
 Rough-stemmed goldenrod
 Sea-beach angelica
 Wire rush
 Yarrow

Associated Rare Plants

Beach plum
 Small saltmarsh aster

Examples on Conservation Lands You Can Visit

- Little Duck Island- Hancock Co.
- North Libby Island Wildlife Management Area - Washington Co.
- Popham Beach State Park - Sagadahoc Co.
- Seawall Beach, Morse Mountain Preserve - Sagadahoc Co.
- Stratton Island - York Co.