



Photo by Gerald Beetham

Sweet Fern

Comptonia peregrina

Growing Information

- Sunlight: Sun, part shade
- Soils: Sandy, acidic, dry to moist
- Bloom Time: Inconspicuous yellowish green flowers in April, May, June
- Size: 1-3ft in height; 4-8ft spread

Plant the nitrogen-fixing shrub as a ground cover for erosion control, foundation planting, mixed border, or massing. Colony forming, little management is needed. Fern-like leaves smell sweet and are deer resistant. Nice fall color.

Garden Companions

Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), Beach Plum (*Prunus maritima*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Nature Benefits

- Larval host for several sphinx moths, gray hairstreak butterfly, and others.
- Nutlets attract butterflies and birds.

Natural Habitat

Occurs in clearings, pastures, edges of bog roads, and woodlands.

