



photo: Dan Jaffe

BUTTONBUSH

Cephalanthus occidentalis

A low-maintenance shrub with glossy leaves and long-lasting white fragrant flowers that resemble pincushions. Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and adapts easily to various soil types.

Growing Information

Sunlight	Full sun to part shade
Soil Type	Adapts to a wide variety of soils but will not tolerate dry conditions; will grow in standing water
Height	5–12'
Deer resistant	
Flowering calendar	June

Benefits for Wildlife

Leaves	Larval host plant for 18 species of butterflies and moths
Flowers	Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and beneficial insects
Fruit	No
Seeds	Water birds eat buttonbush seeds

Host to 18 caterpillar species, including:
(common names) Definite Tussock Moth;
Promethea Silkmoth; Cecropia Silkmoth;
Whitemarked Tussock Moth; Buttonbush

Leafminer; Connubial Underwing; Lost Owlet; Gold-Lined Melanomma

Benefits for People

- A good choice for pond edges and stream banks for erosion control; provides cover for waterfowl and shade for fish

Natural Habitat

- Thickets and swamps

