



photo: Dan Jaffe

COMMON 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.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and beneficial insects
- Water birds eat buttonbush seeds
- Wood ducks use bush structure to build nests
- Provides shade for fish

Host to 18 caterpillar species, including:
Definite Tussock Moth; Promethea
Silkmoth; Cecropia Silkmoth; Whitemarked
Tussock Moth; Buttonbush Leafminer;
Connubial Underwing; Lost Owlet; Gold-
Lined Melanomma

Benefits for People

- Unique and interesting flowers
- A good choice for pond edges and stream banks for erosion control

Growing Information

Sunlight	Full sun to part shade
Soil Type	Moist to standing water
Height	5-12'
Width	5-8'
Flowering calendar	June

Natural Habitat

- Thickets and swamps

