



Field Guide to the

Plants of Wareham

Please remember to only forage in areas where you have permission, and only forage for plants if you are completely confident in your identification of them.





Lowbush Blueberry

Vaccinium angustifolium

Family: Heathers (Ericaceae)

Subfamily: Blueberries, Cranberries, Huckleberries, and Allies (Vaccinioideae)

Identifiers:

- Shrub stands 2-24 inches tall
- Leaves are a glossy blue-green in summer
- Flowers are bell-shaped and white
- Fruit is small sweet dark blue/black berry - edible and a delicious snack!

Habitat: Sandy Areas and Woodlands

Fun fact: Lowbush Blueberry is native to eastern and central Canada and the northeastern US, it can be found growing as far south as the Great Smoky Mountains and as far west as the Great Lakes!

Eastern Teaberry

Gaultheria procumbens

Family: Heathers (Ericaceae)

Subfamily: Blueberries, Cranberries,
Huckleberries, and Allies
(Vaccinioideae)

Identifiers:

- Shrub stands 4-6 inches tall
- Leaves are oily and evergreen
- Flowers are white and bell-shaped
- Fruit is red and about 0.5 inches in diameter- berries are edible, with an almost minty flavor

Habitat: deciduous and mixed woods

Fun fact: A type of wintergreen, the leaves are more often used to make teas and essential oils.



Northern Bayberry

Morella pensylvanica

Family: Wax Trees and Shrubs
(Myricaceae)

Genus: Bayberries (Morella)

Identifiers:

- Shrub growing up to 14 feet tall
- Leaves can grow up to 6 inches
- Flowers can be green or red
- Berries have a pale blue/purple waxy coating

Habitat: Sandy swamps and wet woods

Fun fact: Northern Bayberries can be used to make bayberry wax candles.





Common Bracken Fern

Pteridium aquilinum

Family: Bracken (Dennstaedtiaceae)

Genus: Pteridium

Identifiers:

- Large triangular fronds grow up to 3 feet long
- Perennial plant so it will die back to ground level in autumn

Habitat: temperate and subtropical forests

Fun fact: In spring, the fronds have not yet unfurled, making the ferns look like lollipops.

Cinnamon Fern

Osmundastrum cinnamomeum

Family: Royal Fern (Osmundaceae)

Genus: Osmundastrum

Identifiers:

- Fronds spread to 5 feet tall and 4 inches wide
- Leaves are green at first, but slowly become brown as the season progresses

Habitat: Swamps, bogs, and wetlands

Fun fact: Cinnamon ferns were used for a variety of medicinal purposes and as a food source by Native Americans.





Poison Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans

Family: Cashew (Anacardiaceae)

Genus: Poison Ivies and Oaks (Toxicodendron)

Identifiers:

- Has multiple forms: climbing vine, shrub up to 4 feet tall, or trailing vine up to 10 inches tall
- Leaves come in threes (technically three leaflets per leaf) with smooth edges and sometimes have a mitten shape - can range in color from light green to red to dark brown

Caution: Poison Ivy is known to cause an itchy, irritating rash for most people so avoid touching it if you can!

Fun fact: The species is variable in its appearance and habit, and despite its common name, it is not a true ivy (Hedera), but rather a member of the cashew and pistachio family.

Thank you to [iNaturalist.com](https://www.inaturalist.com) for the photos of these plants.

To learn more or access other Field Guides, visit www.warehamlandtrust.org/resources.

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