

## 2023 December *Guess that Plant*



*Lyonia ligustrina* (L.) DC, Maleberry

The December *Guess that Plant* is a native shrub found throughout the state. Maleberry is an obligate wetland species found in palustrine swamps and on pond edges. It's a member of the blueberry family, Ericaceae, with many New Jersey relatives. Unlike the true blueberries, *Lyonia* does not form a fleshy berry. Instead, it produces a small dry capsule, set on a panicle of many small turbinate flowers. It is easily confused with fetterbush and high bush blueberry. It is best distinguished by its panicle of small capsule and its somewhat rugose veined leaf.

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