

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Ilex amelanchier - Sarvis holly Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State		■			
Global				■	
	imperiled		rare		secure



Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

Recognition:

- Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub of acidic forested wetlands
- Leaves with entire margins (rarely with a few minute teeth near tips); leaves with strong net-like venation and pubescent with soft hairs on lower surfaces
- Leaves somewhat resemble downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), hence the specific epithet
- Fruit is a dull red drupe, 0.5 to 1 cm in diameter

Flowering Time: April and May; fruit in Fall

Light Requirement: Shade to part shade

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

Bayhead swamps, pondcypress-swamp black gum swamps, flatwoods ponds. The only known occurrence of *Ilex amelanchier* west of the Mississippi River is in Vernon Parish in an intermediate-depth flatwoods pond. Soils are poorly drained acidic sands or silts.

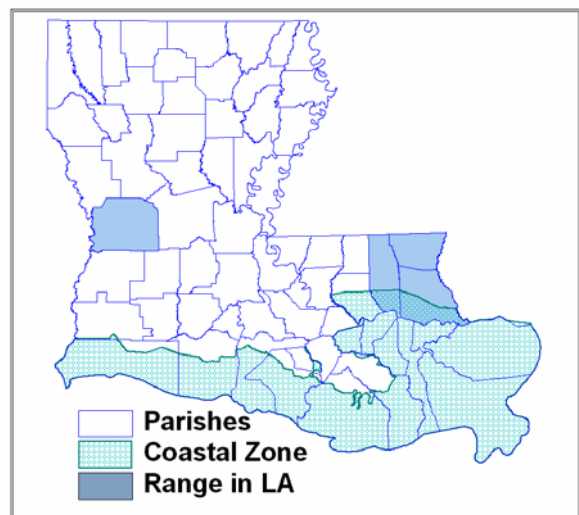
Threats:

Changes in hydrology (e.g. draining or impounding swamps and ponds)

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Do not levee natural flatwoods ponds to enable them to hold more water
- Adhere to Best Management Practices (BMPs) relative to erosion prevention and wetland protection when conducting timber harvesting

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Calcasieu, Sabine



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Photo by Lowell Urbatsch

Above: flowers

Left: Dull red fruit

References:

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Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

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