

# *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

# Common Buttonbush

## **Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance**

Preferred water depth is 2-3 feet. Species tolerates permanently to semi-permanently flooded conditions. Ten inch tall seedlings can survive complete submergence for up to 45 days.

## **Wildlife Value**

Seeds are eaten by waterfowl. Seed also provides food for insects, beaver, and muskrats. Plants provide nectar source and habitat for insects. Also provides nesting habitat for birds. Browsed by deer, muskrats, and beaver. Provides reptile habitat.

## **Application/Zone**

Used in upper and lower shoreline zones and for streambank stabilization.

## **Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance**

- Transplants and seed have limited availability from vendors. Collect seed in August-September and store in fresh water at 34° F.
- Seed can be planted in wet mudflats or shorelines and requires light for germination.
- Plants establish easily from cuttings, but cuttings should be rooted before flooding.
- Rooted cuttings survive well. Small plants or seedlings may be transplanted directly on the site at 5 feet on center density.
- Growth rate is medium, 1-2 feet per year.
- This species can form monocultures.

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## Mature Height

3-10 feet

## Plant Type

Deciduous shrub

## Indicator Status

Obligate

## pH

6.0-8.5

## Nutrient Load Tolerance

Moderate

## Salt Tolerance

Moderate to high

## Siltation Tolerance

Moderate

## Flowering Color and Time

White

June to August

## Light Preference

Partial to full sun

Tolerates full shade but may decline

## Seeding Rate

Not applicable

