

When choosing a site to plant Salt Matrimony Vine, there is one consideration if using it for landscape purposes. Salt Matrimony Vine has a tendency to sprout from its roots.

Pests and Diseases

Salt Matrimony Vine has no known pests or diseases.



USDA-NRCS



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For More Information Contact:



Nicholls State University
Cajal State University Campus
P.O. Box 2663
Thibodaux, LA 70310
Phone: 1-800-259-0869



Golden Meadows Plant Materials Center
438 Airport Road
Galliano, LA 70354
Phone: (985) 475-5280
Fax: (985) 475-6545

For more information about other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <<http://plants.usda.gov>> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>.

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MATRIMONY VINE

Lycium carolinianum Walt.

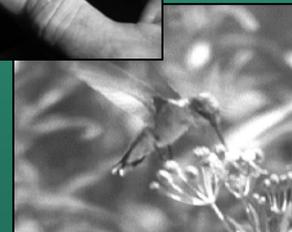
For Coastal Wetlands



USDA-NRCS



G. Edward Alexander, Jr.



Dr. Malcolm Vidrine, LSU

Helping People Help the Land...

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WHY MATRIMONY VINE?

Salt Matrimony Vine is also known as Carolina Wolf Berry, Christmas Berry, and Carolina Desert Thorn. Salt Matrimony Vine is a native evergreen, small tree or shrub that is found along the coast in Louisiana in salt marshes and barrier islands.

Salt Matrimony Vine is good ornamental because it succeeds in most soils. It also can tolerate salt spray and drought conditions. It can be planted to form a nice border or grown in a container or raised planter. Salt Matrimony Vine could be used for erosion control because of its extensive roots. Another species, *Lycium halimifolium* has been planted throughout the United States for erosion control. However, it is introduced, unlike Salt Matrimony Vine, which is native.

The most important feature of Salt Matrimony Vine is its fruit. In the fall, the



Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

fruits are a tomato-red in color. Several birds benefit from the fruits—chestnut-sided

warbler, least flycatcher, Philadelphia vireo, Tennessee warbler, willow flycatcher, and yellow warbler, just to name a few.

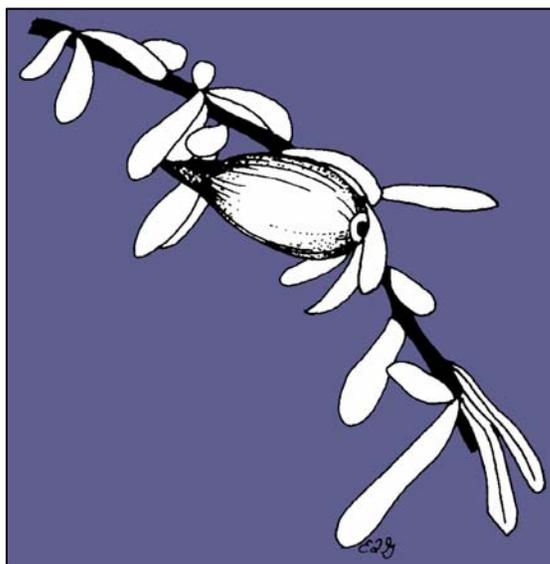


Jeff Trahan

The flowers also provide nectar for the hummingbirds in Louisiana.

Description

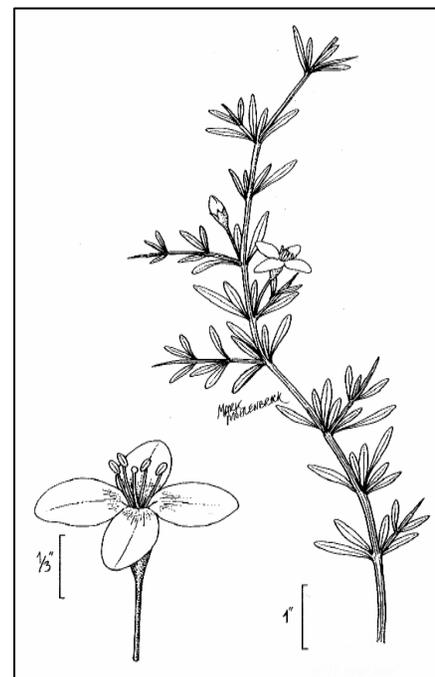
Salt Matrimony Vine is a small tree or shrub that reaches a height of up to 10 feet. It has vine-like trailing branches that are covered with spines. The leaves are alternate, simple, succulent, and linear or club-shaped. The flowers are lavender to purple and appear sometimes throughout the year. Branches are spreading and can entrain sand and wind-blown seed.



Florida Cooperative Extension Service

Propagation and Establishment

There are no known cultivars or varieties that are originally from Louisiana available and not many nurseries have Salt Matrimony Vine in stock. However, Salt Matrimony Vine can easily be propagated by seeds, cuttings, or by layering.



Mark Mohlenbrock, USDA-NRCS

The fruits can be picked from the shrubs or small trees in the fall. After the seeds have been collected sow them early spring in a greenhouse. Germination is usually good and fairly quick. Separate seedlings into larger pots and grow them in the greenhouse for their first winter. Then, plant in late spring or early summer.