



Sweetgale

Myrica gale



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General: A deciduous shrub (1–1.5 m high)

Leaves & Twigs: Sweetgale has brown twigs branching in an alternating pattern. The spatula-shaped, hairy leaves are usually rounded at the tip and narrow at the base and appear after the flowers.

Flowers & Fruits: Flowers are non-drooping catkins with male and female catkins usually on separate plants. Male flowers are 1–2 cm long, yellow with reddish scales and the female flowers are smaller and ruby red.

Habitat: Wet areas around ponds, rivers and bogs.

Blooming Time: April-May

How to Observe: Tag a male shrub to observe.

First Bloom: When male catkins start shedding pollen in at least 3 places.

Mid Bloom: When half the male catkins have lengthened and are shedding pollen.