

*Lyonia ferruginea* (Walt.) Nutt.



<b>Common Name</b>	Rusty Lyonia
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<i>Lyonia ferruginea</i>
<b>Family</b>	Ericaceae
<b>Form</b>	Shrub
<b>Growth Habit</b>	Rusty Lyonia is an evergreen shrub that occasionally reaches the stature of a small tree and has an irregular growth form. It grows from 10'-15' tall and is multi-stemmed.
<b>Bark</b>	The trunks are reddish-brown in color and can have a twisted, gnarled appearance that is very distinctive. Younger stems are covered with rust-colored hairs.
<b>Leaves</b>	The leaves, which have a leathery texture, are present alternately on stems and are ovate to elliptic in shape. They are 1"-3" long and ½"-1" wide with edges that are turned under. The undersides of the leaves are rust-colored and covered with hairs.
<b>Flowers</b>	The flowers, which are white to tinged with pink, are found in clusters at leaf bases in the upper branches of the shrub on last

season's growth. Each flower has 5 lobes, is about 1/2" long, and is urn-shaped. Flowering occurs from late winter through spring.

<b>Fruit</b>	The capsules have a rounded shape with thickened margins, and are about 3/8" in diameter. They are brown in color and slightly hairy.
<b>Soil conditions</b>	Rusty Lyonia is found on sandy soils that are acidic to nutrient poor and those that are both dry or moist.
<b>Water</b>	Drought-tolerant
<b>Light Requirement</b>	Full sun to partial shade
<b>Native Growth Zone</b>	8-10
<b>Propagation</b>	Seed
<b>Habitat</b>	Found frequently in scrub and pine flatwoods ecosystems.
<b>Remarks</b>	The stems of Rusty Lyonia, which are prized for the unique twisting texture of their bark, are frequently collected for use in the ornamentals industry. Silk leaves and flowers are attached to the stems to create artificial plants which are used for decoration. The fruit of Rusty Lyonia is eaten by wildlife.

#### **Works Consulted**