

**I.B.2.N.a.29. QUERCUS ALBA - QUERCUS (FALCATA, COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE**

White Oak - (Southern Red Oak, Scarlet Oak) Forest Alliance

Physiognomic Class Forest (I)  
Physiognomic Subclass Deciduous Forest (I.B.)  
Physiognomic Group Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.)  
Physiognomic Subgroup Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N.)  
Formation Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a.)

**Alliance QUERCUS ALBA - QUERCUS (FALCATA, COCCINEA) FOREST ALLIANCE (I.B.2.N.a.29)**

Quercus stellata – Quercus velutina / Myrica pensylvanica / Deschampsia flexuosa Forest

Post Oak - Black Oak / Northern Bayberry / Wavy Hairgrass Forest

*Maritime Post Oak Forest*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This vegetation is restricted to a narrow belt bordering Moriches Bay on the William Floyd Estate.

***Globally***

Maritime zone of Long Island, New York, Connecticut and possible in Massachusetts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This community type is restricted to the William Floyd Estate, where it occurs along sandy banks of a small inlet off of Moriches Bay. Tidal flooding is probably infrequent and occurs only during storm surges. Salt spray causes significant damage to vegetation. The substrate is deep loamy sand.

***Globally***

This vegetation occurs on maritime bluffs, sand spits, and salt marsh borders. Vegetation structure is heavily influenced by salt spray and wind-pruning. This vegetation is generally restricted to a band within 200 m of the coast.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Carya tomentosa, Quercus velutina</i>
Shrub	<i>Sassafras albidum, Myrica pensylvanica</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>
Vine / liana	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>

***Globally***

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Quercus coccinea, Quercus velutina</i> and/or <i>Quercus stellata</i>
Shrub	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>
Vine	<i>Smilax rotundifolia, Toxicodendron radicans, Parthenocissus quinquefolia,</i> and/or <i>Vitis aestivalis.</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Quercus stellata, Myrica pensylvanica*

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Fire Island National Seashore**

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**Globally**

*Quercus stellata*, *Quercus coccinea*, *Myrica pensylvanica*, dense vine layer (*Smilax rotundifolia*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and/or *Vitis aestivalis*).

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

**Fire Island National Seashore**

This community is a maritime oak forest on sandy deposits of the William Floyd Estate along a small inlet of Moriches Bay. The tree canopy has *Carya tomentosa* and *Quercus velutina* as co-dominants, but *Quercus stellata* (to 254 years old) is particularly characteristic. The shrub layer is fairly diverse with the tall shrub layer being dominated by *Sassafras albidum* and the short shrub layer dominated by *Myrica pensylvanica*. *Smilax rotundifolia* is a common vine with greater than 25% cover. The herbaceous layer is sparse and characterized by *Carex pensylvanica*.

**Globally**

This vegetation is a maritime oak forest of bluffs, sand spits, and salt marsh borders. It is characterized by *Quercus stellata*, *Quercus velutina*, *Quercus coccinea*, *Quercus alba*. *Juniperus virginiana* may contribute a minor cover to the canopy. The dense shrub layer is made up of *Myrica pensylvanica*, *Gaylussacia baccata* and *Prunus serotina* with a heavy component of vines such as *Smilax rotundifolia*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, and *Vitis aestivalis*. Vegetation structure is heavily influenced by salt spray and wind-pruning as evidenced by the characteristic flat-topped canopy.

COMMENTS:

**Fire Island National Seashore**

**Globally**

**States/Provinces:**

CT:S? MA? NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK:

G?

DATABASE CODE:

CEGL006373

MAP UNITS:

FIIS. Plot 35

REFERENCES:

Hunt 1997

Metzler and Barrett 1996