

I.A.8.N.c.2. JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

Eastern Red-cedar Forest Alliance

Physiognomic Class Forest (I)
Physiognomic Subclass Evergreen Forest (I.A.)
Physiognomic Group Temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8)
Physiognomic Subgroup Natural/Semi-natural (I.A.8.N.)
Formation Conical-crowned temperate or subpolar needle-leaved evergreen forest (I.A.8.N.c.)

Alliance JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA FOREST ALLIANCE (I.A.8.N.c.2)

Juniperus virginiana Forest

Eastern Red-cedar Forest

Old-field Redcedar Forest

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL: 3

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM: N/A

RANGE:

Fire Island National Seashore

This vegetation is restricted to a small patch adjacent to salt marsh at the William Floyd Estate.

Globally

This vegetation is common in old field settings of most northeastern states.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

Fire Island National Seashore

This community type is restricted to the William Floyd Estate, where it occurs adjacent to the salt marsh shrub border. The substrate is deep sandy loam.

Globally

This vegetation occurs on abandoned agricultural fields that have been used for pasture or agriculture. Soils are highly variable and typically a plow horizon is evident.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

Fire Island National Seashore

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Shrub	<i>Eleagnus umbellata</i> , <i>Rhus copallina</i>
Herbaceous	<i>Festuca rubra</i> , <i>Agrostis cf. capillaris</i>
Vine / liana	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Shrub	
Vine	

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

Fire Island National Seashore

Juniperus virginiana

Globally

Juniperus virginiana

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Fire Island National Seashore

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

Fire Island National Seashore

This community is a successional abandoned pasture of the William Floyd Estate adjacent to a salt marsh. The tree canopy is dominated by *Juniperus virginiana*, with other canopy associates including *Prunus serotina* and *Quercus velutina* at low cover. A tall shrub layer is poorly developed and includes *Eleagnus umbellata*, *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Rhus copallina*, *Juniperus virginiana*, and *Quercus stellata*. A short shrub layer of low cover includes *Quercus velutina*, *Quercus stellata*, *Rubus flagellaris*, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, and *Morella penslvanica*. *Smilax rotundifolia* also occurs in the vine layer. The herbaceous layer is diverse and characterized by exotic species including *Festuca rubra*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Verbascum thapsus*, *Trifolium pratense* and *Hypochaeris radicata*. Other native herbs in this layer include *Elymus virginicus*, *Panicum acuminatum*, *Teucrium canadense*, and *Carex silicea*.

Globally

This vegetation is highly diverse over its range, comprised of *Juniperus virginiana*, shrubs and exotic grasses and forbs. Composition depends on time since abandonment, species composition of surrounding communities, substrate, and microclimate.

COMMENTS:

Fire Island National Seashore

Clark (1986) in a land use study of the Floyd Estate notes the establishment of *Juniperus virginiana* at approximately 1940. This study, in conjunction with the presence of many exotic species, supports this vegetation as post-agricultural in origin.

Globally

States/Provinces:

CT:S? MA? NY:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK:

G?

DATABASE CODE:

CEGL006373

MAP UNITS:

FIIS. Plot 34

REFERENCES:

Clark 1986