Fire Island Photo Interpretation Key

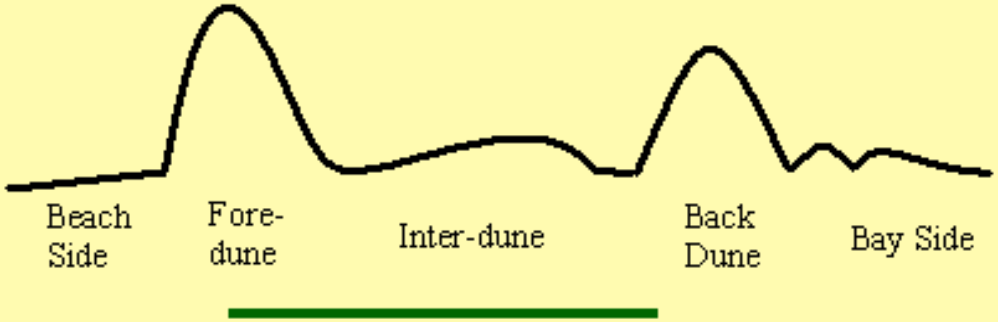
Class: Myrica pennsylvanica - Rosa rugosa Shrubland
(Northern Dune Shrubland)

TNC Alliance Code: III.B.2.N.a.9. 6295

CMI Code: 6295

Type Locator:
Restricted to Fire Island

Cross-Section:



TNC Alliance Description: This shrubland occurs on the leeward side of primary dunes and receives overwash only during storm surge. This maritime dune shrubland is dominated by *Prunus maritima* and *Myrica pensylvanica* with *Rosa rugosa* common, but with low percent cover. Overall shrub cover ranges from 55-90% cover. *Toxicodendron radicans* is a common vine. The herbaceous layer is often sparse and composed of *Ammophila breviligulata*. Other herbaceous species that occur at low cover include *Panicum columbianum*, *Juncus greenei*, *Euthamia tenuifolia*, *Carex silicea*, *Polygonella articulata*, *Gnaphalium*

obtusifolium, *Cyperus grayi*, *Antennaria plantiginifolia*, *Lechea maritima*, *Linaria canadensis*, and *Panicum sphaerocarpon*. In more sheltered areas, species composition is more variable with *Pinus rigida* and *Rubus hispidus* prominent in the shrub layer and *Panicum virgatum* dominant in the herbaceous layer. *Cladonia* species are abundant in the non-vascular layer.

Photo Interpretation: This type is very common and dominates the interdune areas on Fire Island. It variable in height between 0-1 meter in height. It is often interspersed with lighter colored signatures of Ammophia brevigulata and Hudsonia tomentosa. This type has a dark brownish-red color and is typically uniform in texture throughout the polygon. Little sand shows through.

Aerial Photo Samples:

Field Notes: *Prunus maritima* and *Myrica pensylvanica* are the dominant cover for this association. *Rosa rugosa* and *Toxicodendron radicans* are often present. Located on the inter-dune, from directly behind the fore-dune to the taller shrubs and trees on the back-dune.

Ground Photos:

Prunus maritima

Prunus maritima fruit

Myrica pensylvanica

Similar Alliances:

Smilax spp. - Toxicodendron radicans Vine-Shrubland (Maritime Vine Dune): *Myrica pensylvanica* present in both alliances. Vine species have dense total cover of Vine-Shrubland.

Myrica pennsylvanica / Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. littorale - Danthonia spicata Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation (Nothern Sandplain Grassland): A rare alliance idenitified through ground surveys. *Schizachyrium scoparium* and *Myrica pensylvanica* codominate this alliance.