



COMMON NINEBARK

Powerline Friendly, Pollinator Approved

Environmental Message

November 2025

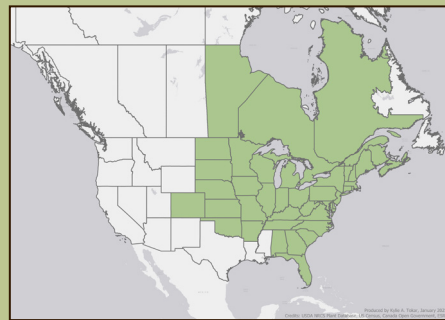
Did you know? Common ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) gets its name from its fascinating bark. As the plant matures, its bark peels away in thin, papery layers, revealing different shades underneath, creating a textured appearance. Early observers believed it had multiple layers—possibly nine—giving rise to the name “ninebark.” This feature is not just decorative—it provides winter interest and makes it an easy shrub to identify, even when it’s not flowering or fruiting.



Human and Wildlife Uses. Common ninebark is a favorite among pollinators and wildlife. Its clusters of white to pale pink flowers attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, while its small, red fruit provides food for birds in the fall. The dense branching structure of ninebark offers excellent cover for small mammals and birds, making it a valuable addition to wildlife-friendly landscapes. Historically, Indigenous peoples used ninebark for medicinal purposes, including treating wounds and gastrointestinal issues.

Border Zone Compatible. Common ninebark is an excellent shrub for the border zone of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW) due to its manageable height, typically reaching 5–8 feet, and its adaptability to various soil types. This hardy plant thrives in a range of habitats, including streambanks, woodland edges, and open fields, making it versatile for ROW vegetation management. Its dense, arching branches provide effective ground cover, helping to suppress the growth of invasive species while stabilizing soil in areas prone to erosion.

Distribution Map



References/Works Cited

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