

buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Rubiales

Family: Rubiaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The buttonbush is a shrub that grows to 10 feet tall. Its stems are branched. The leaves are opposite or whorled around the stem. Leaves are simple, lance-shaped, up to six inches long and up to four inches wide. The white flowers are clustered in spherical heads up to one inch in diameter. The fruits are small nutlets that are found in a spherical head.

BEHAVIORS

The buttonbush grows in swamps, wet soil and the shallow standing water of marshes, ponds and lakes. The plant produces flowers from June through August. Its poisonous leaves are generally not eaten by animals.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; swamps; marshes

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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