

# **What's Blooming?**

**Late May, 2010**

# **Downy Rose Myrtle**

## ***Rhodomyrtus tomentosa***

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# Not for Planting

- Listed as a category 1 invasive weed by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
- A major weed in Charlotte County and as far north as Pasco County.
- A growing problem in Lee and Collier Counties.
- A principal weed in Hawaii and Malaysia.



Evergreen shrub to 8 ft. tall.

Stringfellow Road, Pine Island





Apparently a good source of pollen for bees.

Downy rose myrtle remains practically unnoticed in this pine flatwoods until it blooms in spring.

Pictured at left are three downy rose myrtle shrubs.





**Leaves:** Simple, entire, elliptic-oval, opposite, sometimes 3-leaves whorled, to 3 in. long, 1.4 in. wide, glossy green above, densely soft-hairy below (tomentose).





**Flowers:** Rose-pink, to 1 inch across, in one to a few-flowered clusters at leaf axils; 5 sepals, hairy; 5 petals; many stamens, with pink filaments. Fades quickly when picked.



- Lawn and Garden Homepage  
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenHome.shtml>
- Native Plants Fact Sheets  
[http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA\\_Z.shtml#N](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA_Z.shtml#N)
- Flowering Trees Fact Sheets  
[http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA\\_Z.shtml#T](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA_Z.shtml#T)
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