

***Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*** downy rose-myrtle



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**Appearance:** Evergreen shrub to 2 m (6 ft) tall, with dense, short, soft hairs on young stems.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, entire, elliptic-oval, to 7 cm (3 in) long; glossy green above, densely soft-hairy below (tomentose) with 3 main veins from blade base.

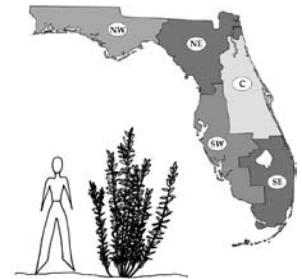
**Flowers:** Rose-pink, to 2.5 cm (1 in) across, in one- to few-flowered clusters at leaf axils; 5 sepals, hairy; 5 petals; many stamens, with pink filaments.

**Fruit:** A globose, few-seeded berry to 1.3 cm (0.5 in) across; dark purple, with sweet, aromatic flesh.

**Ecological threat:**

Readily invades pinelands, displacing native vegetation with dense one-species thickets in the understory. Threatens to become worse than Brazilian pepper in central Florida. FLEPPC Category I

**Distribution:** C, SW, SE



**Field Notations**

RHODTOME/RHTO

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