

**Local Plants: *Yamamomo* (Japanese Bayberry; *Morella rubra*)**

This evergreen tree favors the kind of warm, mountainous coastal area typified by Naruto, where it flourishes in Naruto Park, as well as in home gardens and along the streets.

*Yamamomo* trees grow to a height of around 15 meters and the trunk reaches a circumference of around 1 meter. The short-stemmed leaves have an elongated oval shape. Around April, petal-less flowers bloom beside the leaves, developing into plump fruits that ripen from green to a dark red-purple. Their tangy juice is popular as both a healthy drink and a cooking ingredient. *Yamamomo* bark is also valued, being used to create brown dyes.