

Plans are apparently afoot to plant 12,500 acres of Highland moorland with as many as 150 million bog myrtle bushes. Such an industry would be seen as heaven sent to the fragile economic stability of the Highlands, and talk has it that bog myrtle has the potential to rival, and surpass, the enormous global success enjoyed by Australia's tea tree oil plant. Local birdwatcher, Stuart Gibson continued: 'Oystercatchers have been known to live into their thirties. 'It could well be, however, that those west Highland birds that choose to incorporate parts of the bog myrtle plant in their nest design may derive previously unforeseen benefits. 'As well as helping rid the nest scrape of unwanted flies and ticks, the birds, themselves, may take on a plumage lustre that belies their true age.' Mull and other parts of the west Highlands may end up having the youngest-looking, fresh-faced Oystercatchers in the whole of the country. And, not a botox injection, or a plastic surgeon, in sight!



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