



2023 Native Woody of the Year



Clethra alnifolia Summersweet

A wonderful deciduous shrub that is a must-have for every garden. The showy, fragrant, bottlebrush-like white flowers perfume the air July to August, attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators. Tolerates heavy shade but flowers better in sun. A rain garden staple, and good for erosion control. Of special value to native bees.

- Hardiness:** Zones 3–9
Light: Sun to shade
Soil: Average to wet
Size: 5–8' tall
Foliage: Lustrous green
turns pale-gold in fall
Flowers: Fragrant white spikes
Fruit: Brown seed capsules
Bloom Time: July to August
Wildlife Value: Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds feed from the flowers.



Photos: Albert F.W. Vick, top; George H. Brusco,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center