

November Plant of the Month: *Itea virginica*



Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea Virginia*, is a vibrant fall shrub. Its brilliant fall foliage makes this a favorite in any landscape. November is the peak month for Virginia Sweetspire's fall colors of red, burgundy, orange, or yellow.

Growth Habit: Virginia Sweetspire will grow to be 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. When grown in full sun it has more of a dense growth habit. If grown in part shade to shade it grows leggier. This shrub grows at a medium to fast rate.

Landscape Merit and Use: In May or June, Virginia Sweetspire will put out white bottle brush like flowers with a sweet smell. It has bright green foliage. This shrub is enjoyed in late spring for its sweet smell and then again in the fall for its brilliant fall foliage. The foliage color will last until temperatures dip into the low 20's. This shrub looks great in mass plantings in your landscape.

Growing Conditions: Virginia Sweetspire likes moist conditions. However, if given enough water when getting first established it will adapt to dry conditions. This plant will tolerate part shade but looks best in sunny sites with at least 6 hours of sunlight.

Care: Virginia Sweetspire is relatively pest free. When first planted be sure to give it plenty of water to help it become established.