

Clethra alnifolia
Sweet Pepperbush/ Summersweet



Spring Foliage



Summer Foliage



Fall Fruit

Characteristics: Broad-leaved, deciduous shrub

Appearance:

Height – 6-12 ft.

Aerial Spread – 3 to 6 ft.

Flower Color – White

Flowering Period – Early July through mid-August

Fruit Color – Brown

Fruiting Period – Early September persisting through February

Habitat (Community): Tidal and nontidal forested wetlands, shrub swamps, sandy woods, and coastal river floodplains

Hydrology:

Indicator status – Facultative wetland

Salinity – Resistant; tolerates infrequent flooding by water containing some salt

Non-Tidal Regime – Seasonally to regularly inundated or saturated

Wildlife Benefits: Provides food and cover for songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, upland gamebirds, and small mammals.

Distribution: Southern Maine, south to Florida and eastern Texas