



**Common Sweetshrub**  
*Calycanthus floridus*

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Carolina Allspice, Spicebush, Strawberry Shrub

**Description:**

Unique shrub highly prized for its strong spicy fragrance originating from interesting dark red flowers; plant along a walkway or driveway where the flower fragrance can be enjoyed by passers-by; grows taller in shade

**Ornamental Features**

Common Sweetshrub has fragrant burgundy spider-like flowers along the branches from early to mid summer. It has dark green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.

**Landscape Attributes**

Common Sweetshrub is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Common Sweetshrub is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Common Sweetshrub flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Common Sweetshrub in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

### **Planting & Growing**

Common Sweetshrub will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub performs well in both full sun and full shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

### **Growing Place Choice Plants**

Our Growing Place Choice plants are chosen because they are strong performers year after year, staying attractive with less maintenance when planted in the right place.