

# Chionanthus virginicus

## (White) Fringetree, Old Man's Beard

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

Showy spring flowers and summer fruit for song birds makes this an appealing, native\* addition to the landscape. Be aware though, fruit and foliage also appeal to deer! The Virginia Native Plant Society named White Fringetree as Wildflower of the Year in 1997.



Tree	Spring Sapling, Flowers, Early Summer Fruit
Height: 20–35 feet	
Spread: 20–35 feet	
Bloom Color: Creamy White	
Characteristics	
Slow-growing, <a href="#">deciduous</a> small tree/large shrub; usually multi- <a href="#">stemmed</a>	
<a href="#">Dioecious</a> : separate male and female plants; plant sex may not be known for purchased plants	
<a href="#">Opposite</a> , <a href="#">obovate to elliptic</a> leaves, <a href="#">glabrous</a> above, <a href="#">pubescent</a> below emerge late spring, often w/ flowers	
Fragrant, loose, drooping <a href="#">panicles</a> from previous year's <a href="#">axils</a> May to June; male blossoms bigger	
Bluish-black <a href="#">drupes</a> on female plants in late summer; male plant needed nearby for <a href="#">fruit</a> to set	
Attractive to mundane yellowish fall foliage	
Attributes	 
Tolerates <a href="#">clay soil</a> , air pollution; dislikes drought	
No serious pests or diseases; <a href="#">deer</a> occasionally-to-frequently severely damage (may need protection)	
Therapeutic uses	
Attracts bees to flowers; birds, small rodents, and deer to fruit; <a href="#">larval</a> host to ~12 <a href="#">lepidopterans</a>	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Average, well-drained	<a href="#">Acer palmatum</a> - Japanese Maple
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	<a href="#">Albizia julibrissin</a> - Mimosa / Silk Tree
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Moist	<a href="#">Malus</a> spp. - Asian Crabapples
Seldom needs pruning	<a href="#">Koelreuteria paniculata</a> - Golden Raintree
Use as specimen, in groups or woodland gardens	<a href="#">Pyrus calleryana</a> - Callery Pear
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 3a–9b	<a href="#">Ulmus parviflora/U. pumila</a> - Chinese/Siberian Elms
*It is <a href="#">native</a> in DC. In DE it is common in the Coastal Plain and uncommon in the Piedmont. In MD it occurs more in the Piedmont than Coastal Plain. It is found mostly in the southeast corner of PA. It is frequent to common throughout VA.	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden