

Calycanthus floridus L.



Common Name	Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice
Botanical Name	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>
Family	Calycanthaceae
Form	Shrub
Growth Habit	Sweetshrub has a rounded form and grows from 4'-8' tall, usually being wider than it is tall. It may be thicket forming and has deciduous foliage.
Bark	The bark is grayish to reddish-brown.
Leaves	The leaves, which are aromatic, are elliptically shaped with pointed tips and from 3"-5" long and about 2" wide. They are arranged oppositely on branches and are deep green in color, with the undersides being grayish and sometimes fuzzy below (depending on the variety). Fall color is yellow-green to golden.
Flowers	The unusual flowers, which have a spicy, fruity scent, are reddish or purplish-brown in color and are 1"-2" across. The flower head is composed of thin, ribbon-like petals and sepals. Flowering occurs from spring and sporadically into summer, with flowers appearing at branch ends.

Fruit	The fruits, which are aromatic like the foliage, are hanging, urn-shaped capsules which mature from late summer to early fall.
Soil conditions	Sweetbush seems to prefer moist, rich soils but will tolerate less than ideal conditions.
Water	The soil should be kept moist, although this shrub is moderately drought tolerant.
Light Requirement	Full sun to partial shade
Native Growth Zone	8-9
Propagation	Seed, cuttings, division
Habitat	Sweetbush is found frequently in moist hammocks and along stream banks.
Remarks	The foliage and stems of the Sweetbush are poisonous if ingested in large quantities. It is, however, an easy to grow, relatively pest-free, and attractive plant. The foliage and stems of the plant can be dried to make homemade potpourri. It is listed as threatened by the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Works Consulted