## Fruit Flowers 4-8" Height range 15-30'

## Fringetree

## Chionanthus virginicus

## The Olive Family (Oleaceae)

Basic Description: Fringetree, also called Grancy Graybeard, is a tall shrub or short tree with opposite, deciduous leaves, drooping white "beard-like" flowers and dark blue drupes.

Interesting Facts: Fringetree is commonly one of the last plants to produce leaves each year. Multiple parts of the tree have been used medicinally, including to treat gallbladder and liver illnesses. It makes a beautiful ornamental tree. It is host to the Rustic Sphinx Moth.

Flower: Fragrant, fringe-like, drooping, creamy-white 4lobed corollas hang from a 4 - 8" stalk (beard-like) and appear in late spring before the leaves.

Fruit: Olive-like clusters of dark blue to black drupes, .75" long.

Wildlife Value: Berries and foliage are a food source for many animals, but heavy foraging is very damaging to the plant, limiting it as a long-term food source.

Habitat: Damp woods, thickets, bluffs.

**LEAF TYPE POLLINATOR WILDLIFE VALUE** SIMPLE **INSECTS** 

LOW