



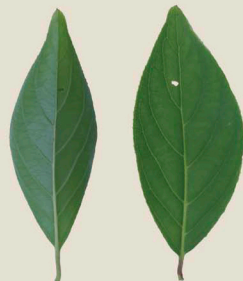
Flowers



Fruit



Height range 3-10'



1-3.5"

# Virginia Sweetspire

## *Itea virginica*

### The Currant Family (Grossulariaceae)

**Basic Description:** Deciduous shrub, also known as Virginia Willow, with slender, arching, brown to gray branches and smooth, scaly bark. Alternate, dark green leaves turning brilliant red, orange and yellow in fall and early winter.

**Interesting Facts:** Flowers open gradually from base to tip.

**Flower:** Appearing on the tips of the arching branches in late spring, the small, creamy white, fragrant flowers are arranged on a 4" drooping spire, similar to a slender bottlebrush.

**Fruit:** Small capsules on a fruiting stalk are green, brown when mature, not showy, but winter persistent and a distinguishing identification feature.

**Wildlife Value:** Butterflies, bees and wasps attracted to flower nectar.

**Habitat:** Wet, acidic soils; wooded stream banks; swamps; and low pine barrens.

#### LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



#### POLLINATOR

INSECTS



#### WILDLIFE VALUE

LOW

