

summersweet clethra [Clethraceae](#) [Clethra alnifolia](#) L. 

symbol: CLAL3

vTree

Leaf: Alternate, simple, finely serrated margin, obovate, 2 to 3 1/2 inches long, glabrous, shiny dark green above, paler below.

Flower: Small white flowers occurring in dense clusters on long 3 to 6 inch terminal spikes, appearing in mid to late summer.

Fruit: Brown dry capsules, occurring in long clusters, persistent through the winter.

Twig: Slender and scruffy brown; buds with loose scales, the terminal is much larger than the laterals; leaf scar with one bundle scar.

Bark: Grayish, eventually separating into loose strips.

Form: Dense shrub up to 10 feet tall, often root suckers to form thickets.

Looks like: [sweetspire](#) - [swamp doghobble](#) - [coast leucothoe](#) - [fetterbush](#) [lyonia](#)



Found along the eastern coast and in the Coastal Plain.

Additional Range Information:
Clethra alnifolia is native to North America. It is not widely planted.
[See states reporting summersweet clethra.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)

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