

# 'Merlot' Sweetspire



**Bright red fall foliage.  
Deer resistant. Native.**

## *Itea virginica* 'Merlot'

- **Use:** The fall color of the the leaves of this shrub resemble a lovely French wine. It is suitable for flooding large banks with mass plantings. It is also a delightful addition to the mixed border. It prefers moist soils and will tolerate wet conditions. It will grow in full sun to full shade, and requires little pruning or other maintenance. Has lightly scented, pure white flowers that shoot like fireworks in the early summer horizon.
- **Exposure:** Full sun to shade. Best if planted in moist, wet areas. Once established they will become drought tolerant. Adaptable to a range of pH. Best if pruned immediately after blooming. Sets buds during the summer prior to blooming. High moisture, native to swampy and boggy areas. Fertilize in early spring by applying a slow release fertilizer specialized for trees and shrubs. Follow the label for recommended rate of application. Fall color will be more pronounced in full sun.
- **Growth:** Dwarf grower 24-36" tall and 36" wide.
- **Hardiness:** 5b-8; shrub
- **Foliage:** Brilliant red-purple fall color lasts into winter to make this a standout in the landscape. Deciduous.
- **Flower:** Fragrant white summer flowers attract butterflies. May be trimmed after flowering.