

calycanthus floridus

Sweet-shrub

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

This trouble-free shrub, also known as Carolina Allspice, delights the senses with fragrant, showy flowers when planted as a specimen or a screening hedge near a front door or patio. While primarily **native** to several southeastern states,* it does well in Northern Virginia.



Shrub	Flowers, Fruit, Leaves
Height: 6–9	 
Spread: 6–12	
Bloom Color: Maroon	 
Characteristics	
Upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with rounded habit in sun and open habit in shade	<p>Upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with rounded habit in sun and open habit in shade</p> <p>Opposite, lustrous, leathery, aromatic (when bruised), ovate to elliptic leaves (dark green above, paler and pubescent below) turn yellow in fall</p> <p>Showy 2-inch, fragrant, perigynous, maroon flowers with overlapping, strap-like tepals April to July</p> <p>3-inch, urn-shaped pseudocarp,** containing achenes, matures from green to brown & persists into winter</p> <p>Spreads by suckering to form colonies</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>Tolerates clay soil and wet soil; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage</p> <p>Flower fragrance intensity varies so buy plant when in bloom; lenticellate bark aromatic when bruised</p> <p>Attracts beetle pollinators; mammals eat seeds</p>
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Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements: Well-drained loam	
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	Excellent Replacement for
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Daphne</i> spp. - Daphne
Prune immediately after flowering to shape; remove root suckers if spreading not desired	<i>Lonicera</i> spp. - Bush Honeysuckle
Shallow roots benefit from mulch	<i>Michelia figo</i> - Banana Shrub
Use in shrub borders, foundation plantings	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> - Mock Orange
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–9	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> - Lilac
	*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it grows in isolated counties from PA to VA. It is not native to NoVA.
	** This accessory fruit develops from the hypanthium .

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington, VA