

Calycanthus floridus



Plant of Merit

Common Name: Carolina allspice

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Calycanthaceae

Native Range: Southeastern United States

Zone: 4 to 9

Height: 6.00 to 10.00 feet

Spread: 6.00 to 12.00 feet

Bloom Time: April to July

Bloom Description: Brown

Sun: FULL SUN to PART SHADE

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Flower: Showy, Fragrant, Good Cut

Tolerate: Deer, Clay Soil, Wet Soil

Culture Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Grows somewhat taller in shade than in sun. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, including clay, but prefers rich loams. Prune immediately after flowering to shape or maintain compactness. Tends to sucker and often forms colonies in the wild. Remove root suckers promptly if naturalization is not desired.

Noteworthy Characteristics *Calycanthus floridus*, is a dense, rounded deciduous shrub with a suckering habit which grows 6-9' (less frequently to 12') tall with an equal or slightly greater spread. Features very fragrant, brown to reddish-brown flowers (2" across) which bloom at the ends of short branchlets in May. Flowers give way to brownish, urn-shaped fruits (seed capsules) which mature in fall and persist throughout the winter. Lustrous, dark green (pale beneath), ovate to elliptic leaves to 6" long turn golden yellow in fall. Leaves are aromatic when bruised. Best to purchase this plant when in flower because the quality and intensity of the fragrance can vary widely from plant to plant. Also commonly called sweetshrub and strawberry bush in reference to the fragrant blooms which have been described as combining hints of pineapple, strawberry and banana. Further common name of hairy allspice is in reference to the hairy twigs and leaf undersides of this plant. U.S. native from Virginia to Florida.

Problems Deer tend to not severely damage these plants

Source: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder>