



*Summersweet,  
Clethra alnifolia*



**Flowering Period:** Blooms mid to late summer July-September

**Height:** 3-8'

**Bloom Characteristics:** white to light pink flowers, fragrant, five petals, upright spikes 6-10" in length

**Growth Preference:** slightly acidic moist to well drained soil, salt tolerance, full sun to partial shade, suckering, able to form wide colonies, loose round form

Summersweet provides ample nectar for pollinators and is a favorite of bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. They are slow to leaf out and bloom but have a long mid season flowering period during a time when other native shrubs have already finished blooming. As a mid level shrub, Clethra provides structure and habitat for over-wintering pollinators as well as other insects and small mammals.

The spent seed pods provide a food source for songbirds in early fall and persist far into the winter.

**Common Visitors:**

Butterflies- Swallowtail, purple hairstreak,

Birds- Ruby Throated Hummingbird

Bees- Bumble Bees, Sweat Bees, Long Horned Bees

