



# VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE CARE

## **LIGHT**

Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) grows in sun to partial shade. More sun generally improves flowering, plant density and fall foliage color where moisture is reliable. Choose a cultivar and site suited to the local winter conditions; sizes and hardiness differ.

## **WATER**

Water thoroughly at planting and keep the root ball moist during establishment. Sweetspire favors dependable moisture and tolerates periodic wet conditions. Check closely during summer drought, especially in sunny sites. Do not assume an established plant's drought tolerance also applies to a newly planted root ball.

## **SOIL & PLANTING**

Use fertile, moisture-retentive soil, preferably slightly acidic, and set the root ball at nursery depth. Allow space for arching branches and suckering stems. Mulch around the shrub without covering the stem bases. This is a useful option for appropriate rain-garden sites.

## **FEEDING**

Avoid overfertilizing. Feed modestly in spring only when growth or a soil test shows a need, following the fertilizer label. Excess nitrogen encourages leafy growth. Correct dry soil or other root-zone problems before attempting to improve the plant with fertilizer.

## **SEASONAL CARE**

Flowers develop on the previous season's growth. Prune after flowering, before new buds form later in summer. Remove selected aging stems if renewal is needed and preserve the natural arching form. Hard fall or winter shearing removes future flower buds.

## **HELPFUL TIPS**

Roots may send up shoots that gradually form a colony. Remove unwanted suckers or allow a patch where space permits. Fragrant flower clusters attract pollinators. Spring growth and bloom may be affected by winter injury in exposed sites; check stems before removing them.