

Franklinia

(Franklinia alatamaha)

10-20' x 6-15', multistem, picturesque curving shape, upright spreading branches, open airy appearance.

Summer flower buds like big pearls, opening to very striking 3" 5-petaled slightly cupped fragrant white flowers with brilliant gold center of stamens, July to September.

Lustrous 5-6" tapered dark green leaves, then spectacular orange and scarlet in fall, holding into November. At times flowers and fall foliage occur simultaneously.

Attractive smooth gray bark patterned with lighter gray fissures.

Sun to part shade, half a day of sun is ideal. Moist acid organic soil; well-drained soil essential. Needs a sheltered location for the first few years, until well-established. Avoid hot dry exposures and wind.

It has a fibrous root system, so is best left undisturbed once planted.

Use as all-season handsome small specimen tree, for accent, or in borders.

Franklinia is an aristocrat, because of its interesting history. Thomas Bartram, pioneer American horticulturalist, found the plant in 1770 in Georgia, and collected a few for his garden in Philadelphia. It has never been seen in wild since 1790. All plants in commerce derive from Bartram's original collection. He named the tree after his friend Benjamin Franklin. Notably, the tree grows best north of Georgia.

Photo 1: Clayton Chapter , VA Native Plant Soc. flickr.com/photos/claytonsnatives/841144200/sizes/1

Photos 2: Steven Malehorn, Eastern IL University Department of Biology

Photo 3: Sandy Feather, Extension Educator, Penn State. extension.psu.edu/plants/green-industry/news/2012/tree-of-the-month-franklinia-or-franklin-tree-franklinia-alatamaha

Photo 4: Missouri Botanic Garden PlantFinder mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder

Photo 5: American Horticultural Society

Photo 6, 7: John and Doreen Anderson eskimo.com/~enumclaw/index.html

Photo 8: dogtooth77; flickr.com/photos/53817483@N00/2967510049/sizes/1

Photo 9: Rhoda Mauer, Scott Arboretum; gardenseeds.swarthmore.edu/gardenseeds/2011/09/plants-to-reward-patience/

Photo 10: Gary J. Kling, University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana, Dept. of Biology woodyplants.nres.uiuc.edu/plant/fraal70

Photo 11: Dr. Gary McDaniel, Univ. of TN, Department of Plant Sciences. utgardens.tennessee.edu/ohld220/trees/franklinia/form.html

