Sweetspire
'Henry's Garnet'
(Itea virginica)

3-4' x 6', upright rounded, with pliable arching branches.

Native New Jersey south, found in shrub swamps, wet woods, by stream banks.

4-6" lightly fragrant cylinders of June flowers, covering the plant.

4" dark green leaves, pointed oval shape.

Garnet red-purple fall color, persisting until or into December. One of the very most breathtaking shrubs of the fall garden.

Green to red-purple stems, fine to medium texture.

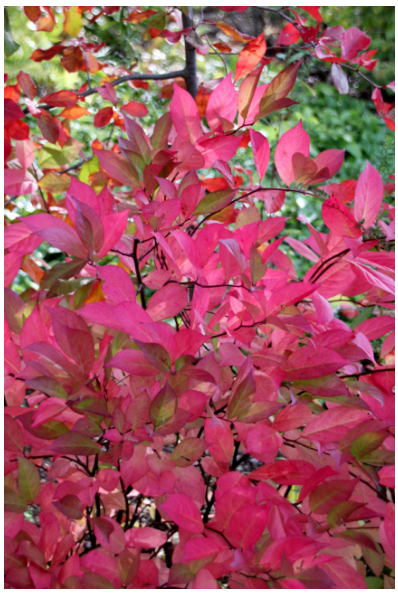
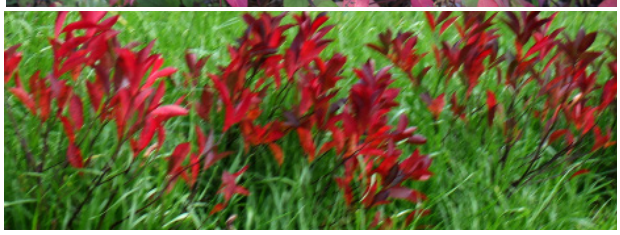
Sun or shade, though better flowering/color in at least part sun. Average to wet soil, muddy silty to sandy,prefers moist, humus-rich soil, but easily grown, and adaptable. Hardy to 20 degrees below 0.

Can slowly form groundcover colonies from root suckers (easily removed and/or replanated if you wish).

Use in masses for shrubby ground cover, in shrub borders, open woodland gardens, foundations, for naturalizing.

Streamside buffers.

Can be used to reduce streambank soil erosion.

Attracts bees and butterflies. In colonies, can provide nesting areas and protective habitat for birds .

Photos:
North Central Conservation District