

## CAROLINA SWEETSHRUB

### *Calycanthus floridus*



#### DECIDUOUS PERENNIAL SHRUB

Family:	Calycanthus floridus
Native to:	Southeastern United States
Hardiness Zones:	4 to 9
Bloom Time:	April to July
Height:	6 to 10 feet
Spread:	6 to 12 feet
Leaf:	Fragrant when crushed/bruised

#### 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, but prefers rich loams. Remove root suckers promptly if naturalization is not desired.

The shrub has very fragrant, brown to reddish-brown (2" across) flowers 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. They are borne somewhat inside of the outer layer of foliage so they are often obscured from view.

The leaves are leathery, dark green and aromatic.

#### Did you know?

**Calycanthus** is commonly called sweetshrub and strawberry bush in reference to the fragrant blooms which have been described as combining hints of pineapple, strawberry and banana. Another common name is hairy allspice in reference to the hairy twigs and leaf undersides of this plant. Sweetshrub could be used as an ornamental in moist locations.

In years past the shrub was used to freshen the smell in the top drawers of a set of dresser drawers. Occasionally, they are used in potpourris. The leaves and fruits are aromatic when crushed. Calycanthus oil, distilled from the flowers, is an essential oil used in some perfumes.