

2025 Native Plant of Distinction: American/White Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)



Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership
for Biodiversity
leapbio.org



Photos by Yale University (top & middle) & Debbie Roos,
North Carolina State Extension (bottom)

Unique Characteristics

White fringe tree, also known as Grancy Greybeard, is a lovely multi-stemmed, rounded shrub that can be pruned into a small tree. This species is well suited to urban plantings due to pollution tolerance and adaptability to varied soils; however, fringe tree is not salt tolerant.

Plant Type: Tree, shrub

Native Range: Eastern North America, except New England

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Soil: Prefers moist, deep, well-drained soil

Height: 12 to 20 feet

Spread: 12 to 20 feet

Wildlife: Small mammals and a variety of birds eat the blue-black fruit

Hardiness Zones: 3 to 9

Bloom Time: Fragrant white flowers in May

Fall Color: Clear yellow

Uses: Specimen tree; shrub border; sensory garden; street tree.
NOTE: does not transplant well



April is

Ohio Native Plant Month