**Chionanthus virginicus**
*(White) Fringetree, Old Man’s Beard*

This appealing, native addition to the landscape is rare in Pennsylvania and historical in Delaware’s Piedmont, but frequent to common elsewhere in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The Virginia Native Plant Society named White Fringe-tree as Wildflower of the Year in 1997. Be aware though, it also appeals to deer!

### Tree

- **Height:** 20–35 feet
- **Spread:** 20–35 feet
- **Bloom Color:** Creamy White

### Characteristics

- Slow-growing, deciduous small tree/large shrub; usually multi-stemmed
- Dioecious: separate male and female plants; plant sex may not be known for purchased plants
- New leaves emerge late spring, often with flowers
- White, fragrant, flower clusters from mid-May to early June; male blossoms are bigger in size
- Bluish-black drupes on female plants in late summer; male plant needed nearby for fruit to set
- Fall foliage ranges from an attractive yellow to more mundane yellow-green or yellow-brown

### Attributes

- Tolerates clay soil, air pollution; dislikes drought
- No serious pests or diseases; deer occasionally-to-frequently severely damage (may need protection)
- Therapeutic uses
- Attracts bees to flowers; birds and mammals to fruit; larval host to several Sphinx moths

### Growing and Maintenance Tips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained</th>
<th>Excellent Replacement for</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade, Shade</td>
<td>Ailanthus altissima - Tree of Heaven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Requirements: Moist</td>
<td>Albizia julibrissin - Mimosa / Silk Tree</td>
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<td>Seldom needs pruning</td>
<td>Eleagnus angustifolia - Russian Olive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use as specimen, in groups or woodland gardens</td>
<td>Koelreuteria paniculata - Golden Raintree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–9</td>
<td>Melia azedarach - Chinaberry Tree</td>
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<td>Pyrus calleryana - Bradford Pear</td>
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*developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria*

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden

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