

Ceanothus americanus

New Jersey Tea

Height: 2' to 3'

Spread: 2' to 3'

Sun: Full sun to light shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic to dry

Soil Types: Sand or loam but thriving in our clay soil

Bloom Time: Late June to early August for about a month

Bloom Description: Strongly honey-scented spheres of white blooms

Fruit: The seed capsules become dark brown/black and split open to eject the seeds up to several feet.

Uses: Low border, hedge, underneath a specimen tree. A keystone plant for native butterfly gardens. One of the few shrubs adapted to life in the prairie. Shrubby ground cover on slopes and banks if well-drained. Cut flowers. Long history of human use. Excellent replacement for non-native and potentially invasive butterfly bush.

Wildlife: Mammalian herbivores and upland gamebirds,

Nectar: Butterflies, moths, bees, flies

Larval Host: Spring Azure, Mottled Duskywing

Pollinators: Tiny pollinators with even tinier tongues can easily reach the nectar in the small, shallow flowers, and larger pollinators such as bumble bees can literally thrash their way around the flowers to gorge themselves – picking up lots of pollen at the same time.

Deer Resistant: No, but the pruning only helps the plant as it blooms on new growth.

Comments: Prune in early spring to control height and spread if needed. It will bloom on new growth.

