



**Creel's Calico Summersweet**  
*Clethra alnifolia 'Creel's Calico'*

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Sweet Pepperbush

**Description:**

An intensely fragrant shrub with very floriferous spikes of white flowers in late summer when little else is in flower; interesting green foliage is spotted and banded with creamy white variegation; remove branches showing all green leaves; some suckering

**Ornamental Features**

Creel's Calico Summersweet has masses of beautiful spikes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. It has attractive white-variegated green foliage. The glossy round leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding harvest gold in the fall.

**Landscape Attributes**

Creel's Calico Summersweet is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Creel's Calico Summersweet is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Creel's Calico Summersweet flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Creel's Calico Summersweet in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

### **Planting & Growing**

Creel's Calico Summersweet will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, preferring to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.