

2017 January *Guess that Plant*



Itea virginica L. Virginia Sweet-spire, Virginia-willow, or Tassel-white

The January *Guess that Plant* was *Itea virginica*, Virginia sweet-spire. This wetland shrub is often confused with fetter bush or blueberry. It differs from the heath shrubs by having a densely flowered raceme with flowers that produce 2 locular capsules containing oval black seeds. Leaves are minutely serrate, alternate and borne on smooth stems showing red, purple, and green colors on growth of the year. *Itea* is a member of the new family, Grossulariaceae. It formerly was in a Saxifragaceae subfamily.

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