

Top Photo: Betty Truax, Virginia Native Plant Society Bottom Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden

New Jersey Tea

Ceanothus americanus

Light: Full Sun

Soil: Sand, Loam

Moisture: Dry, Medium

Benefits: Pollinators, Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Host Plant

Height: 2'-3'

Blooms: Jul, Aug

Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Color: White

Spacing: 3'

Root: Taproot

New Jersey Tea is a compact, dense, rounded shrub, typically growing two to three feet tall. Clusters of tiny, fragrant, white flowers are attractive to pollinators, butterflies, and hummingbirds, and it is a host plant for several butterflies. Young twigs are noticeably yellow and stand out in winter.

A drought tolerant species that grows best in full sun, New Jersey Tea is effective as a shrubby ground cover for hard-to-grow-areas like dry rocky slopes and banks. Foliage is resistant to insects. White-tailed deer will browse on it all year round. Wild turkey eat the seeds.