



Virginia Tech Dendrology

snowbrush Rhamnaceae *Ceanothus velutinus* Douglas ex Hook.   symbol: CEVE

Leaf: Alternate, simple, persistent, ovate to ovate-elliptical, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long, thick, dark green and shiny above and paler below, margins serrated, 3-veined from the base. Leaves are sticky and have a sickeningly sweet odor when rubbed or when weather is warm.

Flower: Perfect and complete small white flowers borne in large, dense clusters up to 5 inches long (giving rise to the name snowbrush).

Fruit: Small, 3-lobed, rounded capsule up to 3/16 inch in diameter, occur in clusters; tiny dark seeds with very hard seed coats; need to be heated by fire in order to germinate.

Twig: Stout, smooth, and green in color.

Bark: Grayish brown and smooth.

Form: An erect, often sprawling, evergreen shrub up to 10 feet tall with stout, green branches. Often forms thickets from basal sprouts.

Looks like: whitethorn ceanothus - blueblossom - redstem ceanothus - deerbrush



Additional Range Information: *Ceanothus velutinus* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. Download the full-size PDF map.

External Links: USDAFS FEIS Silvics - USDA Plants Database

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