



Clethra alnifolia 'Firefly'



Botanical Name: *Clethra alnifolia* 'Firefly'
(NA 73935; PI 663907)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4-8.

Development: 'Firefly' was selected from a second-generation seedling population derived from a *Clethra* 'Tom's Compact' × 'Ruby Spice' hybridization that was made in 1998. It was released in October, 2011.

Significance: 'Firefly' is the first clethra cultivar released from the U.S. National Arboretum's landscape plant breeding program in McMinnville, Tennessee. Its yellow to lime-green foliage adds interest to shady areas of the garden.

Description: **Height and width:** 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide at 5 years.
Habit: Small, deciduous shrub with rounded growth habit.
Foliage: Bright yellow in full sun; lime-green in full shade. Not recommended for full sun in warmer areas of its adaptation, as foliage may scorch in hot summer weather.
Flowers: In mid-summer, 'Firefly' produces 3-inch panicles of fragrant, white flowers. Does not flower as profusely as green-foliaged cultivars.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings root in 4 weeks under mist with 1000 ppm IBA.

Landscape Use: Specimen plant, hedge or in a mixed border.

Availability: For a list of wholesale nurseries propagating this plant, contact Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705. Margaret.Pooler@ars.usda.gov