

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



## ***Cephalanthus occidentalis* - Buttonbush**

COMMON NAME: Buttonbush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cephalanthus occidentalis* - *Cephalanthus* is derived from the Greek, meaning "a head of flowers" and *occidentalis* means "western" which here refers to the western hemisphere.

FLOWER COLOR: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: late July, early August

SIZE: a broad shrub 6 to 8 feet tall and 4 to 8 feet wide.

BEHAVIOR: Rangy, unrefined. Leaves emerge late in May.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows naturally in a variety of wet sites including marshes and wooded flood plains. Full sun is best for flowering, but will tolerate light shade. Not fussy about soil type as long as it is rich or moist. Does not tolerate dryness.

NATURAL RANGE: New England and adjacent Canada, south to Florida and west to southern Minnesota. In the south the range extends to New Mexico. This plant also occurs in Cuba, Mexico, and eastern Asia. In Wisconsin it is found in floodplain forests and marshes along major rivers in the southwestern part of the state.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Unusual round cluster of flowers in mid-summer. Round fruit cluster goes through a reddish stage before ripening to brown. The glossy foliage is attractive. The plant belongs to the coffee family.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water new plantings during the first growing season and protect from browsers.

COMPANION PLANTS: In marshes it is found with marsh milkweed, bluejoint grass, tussock sedge, marsh fern, common boneset, wild iris and cattail. In wooded flood plains it occurs with green dragon, wahoo, white ash, moonseed, and American elm. Elsewhere with winterberry, royal fern, marsh cinquefoil, red maple, speckled alder, and red osier dogwood.