



## ***Ceanothus americanus* – New Jersey Tea**

COMMON NAME: New Jersey Tea, Redroot

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ceanothus americanus*

FLOWER COLOR: white

BLOOMING PERIOD: Mid to late June, through July

SIZE: Usually less than 3 feet high, 2 to 3 feet wide

BEHAVIOR: This is one of the few shrubs adapted to life on the prairie. It blooms on new growth from the base of the plant if tops are burned. It attracts a wide diversity of insects to its flowers and makes a nice addition to a butterfly garden.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best in full sun although it will persist in light shade. It likes rich (mesic) to dry sites. Does not do well in wet soils.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada west to Manitoba, Missouri and Louisiana. In Wisconsin it is most common in the southern and western area on mesic (rich) prairie.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Clusters of tiny white flowers last over a moderately extended period. No fall foliage color, but the seed heads are interesting. They can be used in dried arrangements. Leaves of this plant were considered one of the best substitutes for tea during the American Revolution.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water new plants well until they become established. No follow-up care should be needed. Establish plants easily survive burning or cutting, but the deep roots should not be disturbed.

COMPANION PLANTS: On sandy sites it is found with thimbleweed, butterfly weed, sky blue aster, flowering spurge, June grass, rough blazingstar, wild lupine, downy phlox, black oak, starry Solomon's plume and showy goldenrod. On more mesic (richer) prairies it occurs with little bluestem, wild bergamot, switch grass, yellow coneflower, Indian grass, and spiderwort.