Native Plant of the Month

Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

• The white, waxy berries form in early fall and persist into winter giving this plant its common name.
• The berry is considered to be a famine food for birds who rely on it in late winter, if other food is scarce.
• This plant forms thickets which provide important habitat for small birds, insects, and other small animals.
• This berry is not edible and is somewhat toxic to humans.

Landscape Value

Snowberry is an excellent landscape plant with its arching form, attractive, deciduous foliage, winter berries, and wide adaptability.

It forms solid masses, and spreads by underground runners, so give it room to grow. It provides a nice backdrop and mixes well with select native woodland shrubs such as wild rose, evergreen huckleberry, red osier dogwood, beaked hazelnut, oceanspray, and mock orange.

Plant in sun or partial shade with moist rich soil, and it will thrive, though it is gracefully adaptable to less ideal situations.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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