

New Jersey tea

Ceanothus americanus L.

Group: Dicot

Family: Rhamnaceae (buckthorn)

Growth Habit: Subshrub/shrub

Duration: Perennial

U.S. Nativity: Native to much of eastern U.S.

Natural Enemies Attracted: Small numbers of [Thomisidae](#), [Chalcidoidea](#), [Syrphidae](#), [Empididae](#), [Orius insidiosus](#), [Braconidae](#) and [Cynipoidea](#).

Pests Attracted: Large number of lygus bugs. Small number of thrips, leafhoppers, root-maggot flies and aphids.

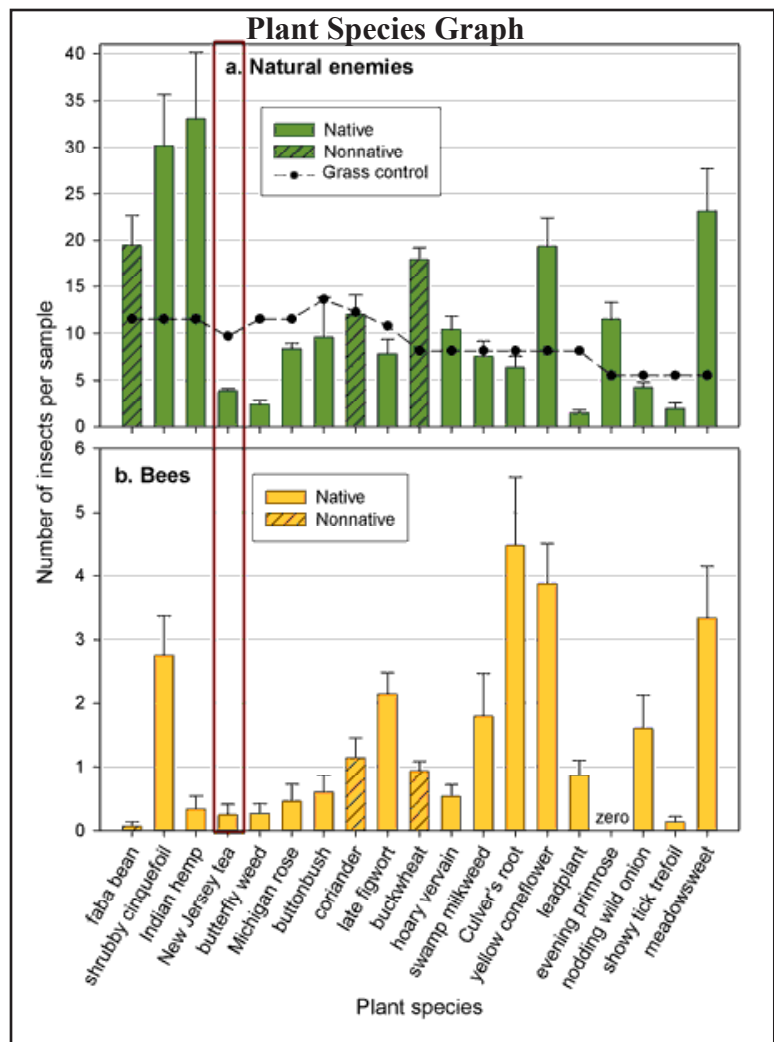
Bees attracted: Low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square in a 30 second sample) of bees including yellow-faced bees and sweat bees.



Species Notes: Airy white flower clusters bloom on plants that grew 2-3 feet tall. Plants were slow to establish, but in their fourth year of growth filled in and bloomed prolifically. Plants bloomed in early July. This species was the fourth least attractive to natural enemies in the mid season, with half as many natural enemies as the grass control.

About the Plant Species Graph:

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



Habitat: Includes full sun to partial sun and very dry to average moisture. Often found in high quality prairies, oak savannas and dry open sandy areas.

Cultivation and Management: Can be grown from seed (flowers in third to fourth year) or plug material (flowers in second to third year). Although not attractive to natural enemies in the third year of growth, this plant flowered profusely in its fourth year of growth, and may be more attractive to beneficial insects as it matures. This plant is extremely deep rooted and drought tolerant.

Availability: Species is available as seed or plug material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

For more information: View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

