

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Clethra alnifolia*

[Synonyms : *Clethra alnifolia* var. *tomentosa*, *Clethra michauxii*, *Clethra paniculata*, *Clethra tomentosa*]

**BUSH PEPPER** is a deciduous shrub. Native to eastern North America it has tiny sweetly scented, pink-tinted, white flowers and leaves which turn yellow and orange in Autumn.

It is also known as Alder-leaved clethra, Coastal sweetpepper bush, Mignonette tree, Nana, Pink spire, Soap bush, Summersweet, Sweet pepper bush, and White alder.

The scent can sometimes be overpowering in a confined space.

*Alnifolia* is made up of the genus name *Alnus* and Latin *-folia* (leaved) components meaning ‘with leaves like those of that (alder) genus’.

It is believed that bush pepper was introduced to Britain in 1731.

Medicinally, it has been used locally to treat fevers, coughs and lung disorders.