



## American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

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### Summary

**Foliage:** Deciduous broadleaf

**Height:** 10 feet

**Spread:** 6 feet

**Shape:** upright informal habit.

The primary and sole attribute of beautyberry, a large loosely branched shrub, is the showy display of magenta fruits in the fall.

### Plant Needs

**Zone:** 7 (perhaps 6b) to 9

**Light:** Partial shade to full sun

**Moisture:** Wet to moist

**Soil Type:** Sandy, loam, or clay

**pH Range:** 3.7 to 6.4

### Functions

Suggested uses for this plant include border, naturalizing, and massing.

### Planting Notes

Transplants readily. Plant in well-drained soil.

### Care

Since flowers occur on new growth, prune to within 4 to 6 inches of the ground each spring. Heavy, early spring pruning increases fruit production.

### Problems

No serious problems.

### Alternatives

Consult local sources, including historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

### Varieties of *Callicarpa americana*

var. *lactea* has white berries.

## **Related Species**

Purple beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma*) is the most refined of the beautyberry species and is more cold hardy (zone 5) than American beautyberry.

Japanese beautyberry (*Callicarpa japonica*) has metallic purple fruit and yellow fall color.

## **Comments**

American beautyberry is a native plant grown for its colorful berries in autumn. Well suited to planting in groups, and to create natural settings.

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