

Scientific Name: *Stewartia pseudocamellia*

Family: Theaceae

Common Name: Japanese Stewartia

Native Habitat: Japan

Hardiness Zone: Zones 5-7

Exposure: Can be grown in an open situation but prefers partial shade; particularly needs to be sheltered from the hot afternoon sun.

Form: A small to medium sized tree, often pyramidal shaped in its youth; it slowly fills out to become more oval as it ages.

Soil Requirements: Humus-rich and well-drained.

Growth Rate: Slow to medium.

Height: Can reach anywhere from 20 to 40 feet high and equally as wide.

Leaf: Leaves are alternate, simple and have serrated edges. They are 2 to 3½ inches long, dark green and change in the fall to yellow, red or reddish purple.

Flower: The 2 to 2½ inch, white, cup-shaped flowers appear in July and are often the first attraction to this shrub. Flowers are 5-petaled with a large mass of bright orange-yellow anthers and white filaments.

Bark: *Stewartia pseudocamellia* lights up any landscape with its camouflage patterned bark. As the tree grows, the bark develops an exquisite exfoliating, smooth texture coloured shades of dove grey, orange, and cinnamon, giving it excellent winter interest.

Fruit: The fruit is just another wonderful part of *Stewartia pseudocamellia*. Often lasting throughout the winter, the fruit is a brownish, 5-valved, pointed capsule that opens at maturity to expose its brown seeds.

