



## Franklinia alatamaha



<b>Height</b>	3 – 6 m
<b>Width</b>	3-5m
<b>Crown</b>	irregularly oval
<b>Bark and branches</b>	twigs green to brown, bark dark-brown with light grooves
<b>Leaf</b>	obovate to elongated, 10-15 cm, glossy dark green
<b>Autumn colour</b>	yellow, orange, red
<b>Flowers</b>	single or in pairs, 7-8 cm tall, white with orange-yellow stamen center, August-October
<b>Fruits</b>	round capsules, brown
<b>Spines/thorns</b>	None
<b>Toxicity</b>	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
<b>Soil type</b>	moist but well-drained soil
<b>Paving</b>	tolerates no paving
<b>Winter hardiness zone</b>	6a (-23,3 to -20,6 °C)
<b>Wind resistance</b>	Moderate, prevent cold, dry wind
<b>Other resistances</b>	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
<b>Fauna tree</b>	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), valuable for butterflies
<b>Application</b>	small gardens
<b>Origin</b>	U.S. National Arboretum, Washington D.C., USA, 1997
<b>Synonyms</b>	Gordonia alatamaha

Franklinia alatamaha is a loosely branched, small, often multi-stemmed tree 3-6 m tall. At a young age, the tree grows narrowly upwards, but after some years the crown will widen. Very old trees develop a round crown, but this is rare in Europe. The tree has an open structure. The twigs are green to brown, the old bark is dark brown with shallow, lighter brown longitudinal grooves. The shiny dark green leaves turn intense orange to deep red for several weeks in autumn. The flowers appear in the leaf axils and twig tips and stand alone or in pairs. They are bowl-shaped and look somewhat like single-flowered Camellia or Stewartia. They are white with a distinctive orange-yellow heart of stamens. Flowering starts in late summer and early autumn. Franklinia is a warm-temperate plant and a warm, sunny summer is necessary for good flowering. The name Franklinia honours the American statesman and scientist Benjamin Franklin. The species name alatamaha is a reference to the Altamaha River in Georgia where this tree was first found around 1765. The tree was cultivated between 1770 and 1778, and Franklinia alatamaha was last found in the wild in 1790. It is generally believed that F. alatamaha is extinct in the wild. The tree likes moist but well-