



Franklinia alatamaha



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