

# Black titi

(*Cliftonia monophylla*)

For definitions of botanical terms, visit  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary\\_of\\_botanical\\_terms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_botanical_terms).

Black titi (pronounced tie-tie) is a perennial evergreen shrub to small tree. Its fragrant white-to-pinkish flowers are borne in long, showy racemes. Its thick leaves are simple with glaucous undersides and entire margins. They are alternately arranged. The nutlike fruits are yellow-orange drupes that look like buckwheat grains, hence the plant's other common name of buckwheat tree.

Black titi typically blooms in spring. It occurs naturally in swamps, bogs, wet flatwoods and along stream edges. It is a wonderful attractor of pollinators — specifically honeybees who use its nectar and pollen to produce honey — and is also browsed by deer.

Black titi is the sole species in the genus *Cliftonia*, which is one of only two genera in the Cyrillaceae family.

**Family:** Cyrillaceae

**Native range:** Panhandle and Clay, Marion and Putnam counties

To see where natural populations of Black titi have been vouchered, visit  
[www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

**Hardiness:** Zones 8a–9b

**Soil:** Moist to moderately dry acidic soil

**Exposure:** Full sun to partial shade

**Growth habit:** 15'+ tall

**Propagation:** Seed

**Garden tips:** Black titi can be easily maintained as a shrub or small tree. It can form dense thickets and makes for a nice hedge in moist sites or along pond edges. It can also tolerate moderately dry soils in a landscape.

Black titi plants are often available from nurseries that specialize in Florida native plants. Visit  
[www.PlantRealFlorida.org](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org) to find a nursery in your area.



Photo by Alan Cressler,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



"Buckwheat"-like drupes of black titi. Photo by  
Alan Cressler, LBJ Wildflower Center



Photo by Eleanor Dietrich