

***Stewartia ovata* (Mountain stewartia)**
Tea family (Theaceae)

Introduction:

Mountain stewartia is the only stewartia native to Kentucky. It is found in only in four counties around Lake Cumberland.

It is a wonderful small tree producing large white camellia-like flowers in the summer.

Culture:

Does best in a rich loam soil that is acidic. Can be difficult to transplant. It can be grown in full sun, but does best in partial shade.

Additional information:

This is wonderful plant that deserves to be planted more as an ornamental.

It is difficult to propagate and that accounts for its limited availability in nurseries.

The name *Stewartia* commemorates the former Earl of Bute in England, James Stuart (1713-1792).

The National champion trees is Seattle, Washington and is 26 feet tall.



Botanical Characteristics:

Native habitat: Native to southeastern states, especially Tenn., Virginia, and North Carolina.

Growth habit: Small tree often with multiple stems.

Tree size: Trees can reach 15 feet tall.

Flower and fruit: Flowers are white with prominent yellow, orange or purple anthers. Fruit is a pointed capsule with 5 chambers.

Leaves: are simple and entire. Deep green in summer.

Hardiness: Winter hardy to USDA Zone 5.