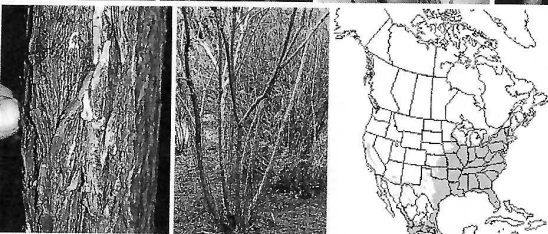
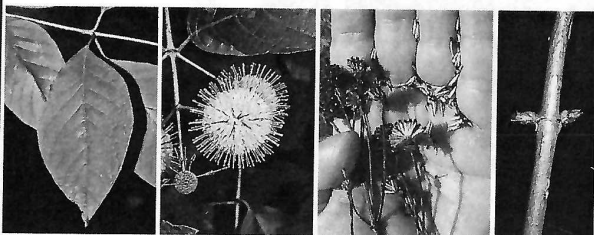


buttonbush *Rubiaceae Cephalanthus occidentalis* L. symbol: **vTree**
CEOC2

Leaf: Opposite or whorled, elliptical, pointed tip, entire margins, 3 to 5 inches long, shiny dark green above.
Flower: Small, white tubular flowers occur in a dense round (1 inch across) cluster at the end of a slender 1 to 2 inch stalk, appear mid-summer.
Fruit: Round cluster of nutlets (each 1/4" long), dark brown, mature late summer to fall.
Twig: Slender to moderately stout, dark reddish brown, speckled with lighter, elongated lenticels; tips of twigs typically die back; lateral buds small and embedded in bark, leaf scar "D"-shaped or nearly round with a single "U"-shaped bundle scar.
Bark: Thin and smooth on young stems, becoming fissured and scaly.
Form: Upright, multiple branching shrub, may reach 25 feet in height.

Looks like: [silky dogwood](#) - [fevertree](#) - [fringetree](#) - [common sweetshrub](#)



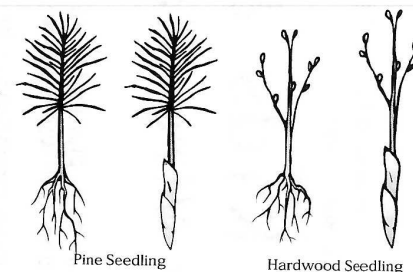
Additional Range Information:
Cephalanthus occidentalis is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting buttonbush.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)

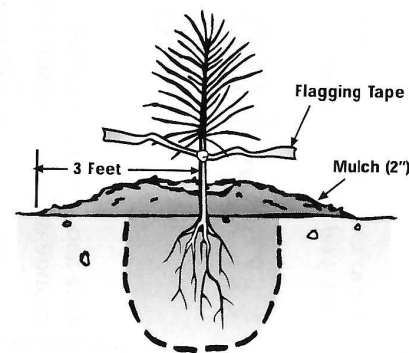
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Photos and Text by: John Seiler,
Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera,
and John Peterson.

How to Plant and Care for a Seedling

Step 1. Keep roots cool and moist until planting.
For individual seedlings, wrap the roots in a moist paper towel and insert them into a plastic bag (roots only). Store seedlings in an unheated basement or refrigerator. Do not let the roots freeze.



Step 2. Find a spot with plenty of sun that is away from your house and not under electric or phone wires. Clear all grass within three feet of the seedling. (Young trees do not like to grow in the grass.) Dig a hole slightly deeper than the roots so that they do not bend in the planting hole. Do not plant the seedling any deeper than the first green needles or bud.



Step 3. Put some garden mulch, pine straw, or leaves in the three-foot area around the tree to keep grass from growing back. Mark your tree with flagging or a small stake so that a lawn mower does not cut it. (Young trees are hard to see). Give your tree water when it gets hot and dry outside.

Note: Your seedling will grow slowly the first year. Do not plant seedlings closer than 10 feet from each other. The best time to plant a seedling is while it is still dormant and the ground is not frozen (February through April).