featured tree Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs



photos courtesy Heritage Seedlings



Japanese Stewartia (Stewartia pseudo camellia)

Looking for an attractive tree that provides year-round interest in the landscape, and is well-suited to small-tomedium size yards? Look no further than Stewartia, a multistemmed deciduous tree with a 15 to 30-foot spread that reaches about 30 feet in height.

This tree shows off white camellia-like flowers in midsummer. Once the trunk attains two to three inches in diameter it features stunning bark that exfoliates in strips of gray, orange and reddish brown. It also boasts great fall foliage.

Stewartia prefers moist, acidic, well-drained soil in full morning sun or partial shade. Avoid sites with hot afternoon sun. This is a slow-growing tree, so be patient and you'll be rewarded year-round.

Though slow-growing, Japanese Stewartia provides year-round interest in the landscape. Flowers and bark, left.