Fothergilla, Mount Airy

Fothergilla major 'Mt. Airy'



Fothergilla, Mount Airy flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Witch Alder, Large Fothergilla

Description:

A versatile and trouble-free landscape shrub; features showy white "bottle-brush" flowers in spring on bare branches, blue-green summer foliage, vivid fall colors and an upright mounded habit of growth, prefers light acidic soils; a choice garden plant

Ornamental Features

Fothergilla, Mount Airy features showy spikes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has bluish-green deciduous foliage. The round leaves turn an outstanding scarlet in the fall.



Fothergilla, Mount Airy in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Fothergilla, Mount Airy is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Fothergilla, Mount Airy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Fothergilla, Mount Airy will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.



Fothergilla, Mount Airy in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder