

VIRGINIA SPIRAEA /
APPALACHIAN SPIRAEA /
VIRGINIA MEADOWSWEET
Spiraea virginiana
(Rose Family)

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Virginia spiraea is one of the rarest shrubs in the world. It is a medium to short shrub 1-2 meters (3.2-6.5 feet) tall. It grows in clumps and spreads by root sprouting.

Leaves are whitish beneath and green above. Leaves are very variable. Some leaves may have a few teeth near the tip while other leaves will be completely toothless. Leaf shapes range from narrowly elliptical to oblong, all with a tiny pointed tip. Leaves are 5-8cm (2-3 inches) long.

Flowers in June. Multiple flowers occur in flat-topped clusters, 5-10cm (2-4 inches) wide. Flowers have 5 small white petals 5mm (0.2 inches) wide.

Fruiting is in August through October. Fruit is a "rose-hip" 2mm (0.1 inches) long. Seed is small, long, and rough surfaced.

Virginia spiraea is found along larger streams on sand and gravel bars in the stream bottoms, growing on rocky ledges, and among rocky patches all of which are periodically scared by flooding. It needs well-drained, wet, full sun sites.

Figure 1 shows a general distribution in the Southeastern US for this species. *Virginia spiraea* is listed as a federally threatened species. Its native range is spread over 10 states. Figure 2 shows the county distribution in Georgia. *Virginia spiraea* is found in the Lookout Mountain area of Northwest Georgia.

Figure 1: General distribution in the Southeastern US.

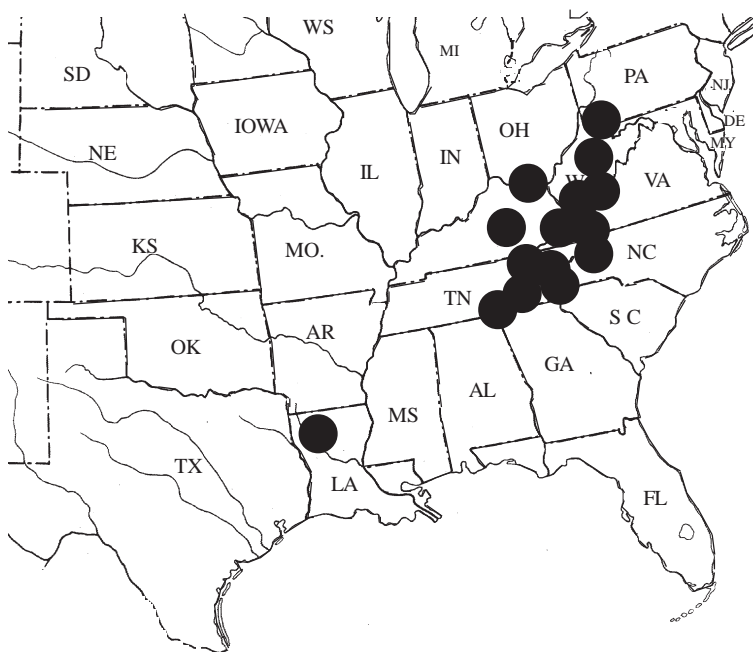


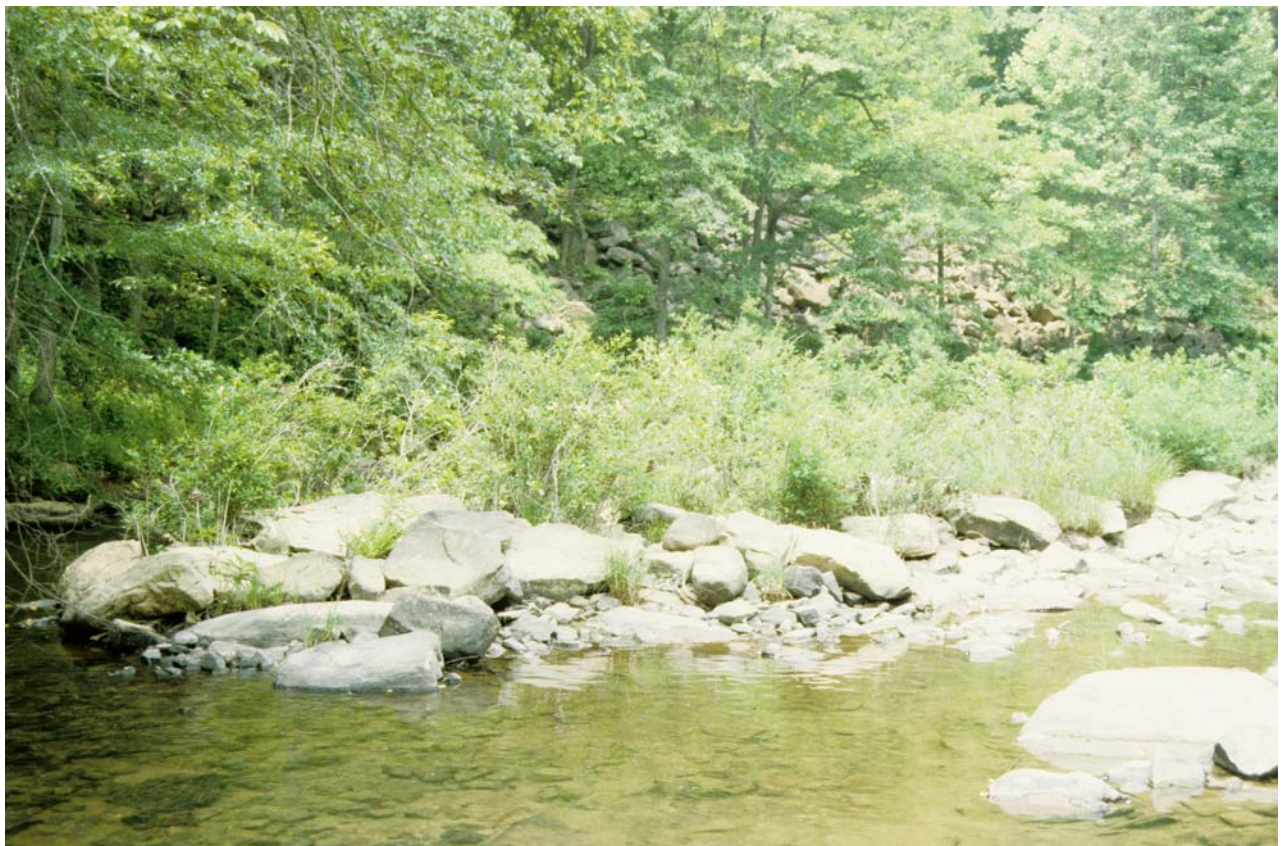
Figure 2: County distribution in Georgia.



Background map from Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.



Habitat views. (photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)





Shoots and foliage.

(photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)



Leaves and twigs. (photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)





Leaves. (photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)





Flower buds and flowers. (photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)





Flowers.

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