



# The Herb Society of America

## Promising Plants Profiles

### ***Calycanthus floridus* 'Michael Lindsey'**

**Genus:** *Calycanthus*  
**Specific Epithet:** *floridus*  
**Cultivar Name:** 'Michael Lindsey'  
**Family:** Calycanthaceae

**Flower Color:** maroon-chestnut  
**Form:** deciduous shrub  
**Hardiness Zone:** 4-7  
**Height:** 3-9'  
**Soil:** well-drained soil enriched with organic matter  
**Sun:** partial shade or sun



**Uses:** ornamental, medicinal, insect repellent, culinary (limited)\*  
**Parts Used:** primarily bark and root, but leaves reportedly have insect repellent properties

"The species *Calycanthus floridus* (Carolina allspice) pales in comparison with this selection by Michael Lindsey. It is a deciduous shrub with dark glossy green foliage and dark maroon-chestnut colored flowers, which have a clove-like scent in the afternoon. I grow it in part sun, and it has now reached a height of 5 feet by 5 feet after 8 years. I live in Zone 7 where it is almost evergreen." – Andy van Hevelingen, Promising Plants Presentation, 2004

\* The bark of *C. floridus* has been used as a spice, but the plant is not considered GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe). The species is reportedly toxic to grazing sheep and cattle, due primarily to toxic alkaloids in the fruits.

Photo by Andy van Hevelingen  
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**Disclaimer:** Profiles are intended to provide a brief introduction to each herb. For additional information on uses, including medicinal contraindications, see the References list. The Herb Society of America can not advise, recommend, or prescribe herbs for medicinal use. Please consult a health care provider before pursuing any herbal treatments. Inclusion of vendor information does not indicate an endorsement by The Herb Society of America, and HSA can not guarantee availability of seeds/plants.