

Vitex agnus-castus

Description

Award-winning 'Shoal Creek' chastetree is native to Southern Europe and Western Asia and grows into a multi-trunked, large shrub or small tree. It ranges in height from 10 to 15 feet, with a broad, spreading growth habit. Unlike the typical species, 'Shoal Creek' is an improved cultivar that possesses larger spikes of violet-blue flowers. It is noted for its resistance to leaf spot.

A more dense plant can be achieved by cutting back the side by 1/3 during the first couple years. Booming takes place on new growth from the current season, so it can be cut back in winter or early spring.

In cooler planting zones it can be grown as a modest sized perennial shrub. Once the cold temperatures begin, dieback will likely take place. However, the roots often survive and new growth can occur the next year. With its rapid growth rate, expect as much as 4-7' of new growth.

It can be grown in partial shade, but a full sun location will yield the best flower production.

'Shoal Creek' chastetree thrives in full sun and will tolerate most soil conditions, as long as the soil is well-drained. This plant selection is exceptionally more vigorous in growth than other varieties of *Vitex*. Once this shrub becomes established, it is very low-maintenance and extremely drought tolerant.

Insects, Diseases, and Other Plant Problems: It has the potential to become invasive. No serious insect or disease issues have been noted. It may develop leaf spot or root rot.

