**Botanical Name:** *Clethra alnifolia* 'Firefly'
(NA 73935; PI 663907)

**Hardiness:** USDA Zones 4-8.

**Development:** 'Firefly' was selected from a second-generation seedling population derived from a *Clethra* 'Tom’s Compact' × 'Ruby Spice' hybridization that was made in 1998. It was released in October, 2011.

**Significance:** 'Firefly' is the first clethra cultivar released from the U.S. National Arboretum’s landscape plant breeding program in McMinnville, Tennessee. Its yellow to lime-green foliage adds interest to shady areas of the garden.

**Description:**
- **Height and width:** 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide at 5 years.
- **Habit:** Small, deciduous shrub with rounded growth habit.
- **Foliage:** Bright yellow in full sun; lime-green in full shade. Not recommended for full sun in warmer areas of its adaptation, as foliage may scorch in hot summer weather.
- **Flowers:** In mid-summer, 'Firefly' produces 3-inch panicles of fragrant, white flowers. Does not flower as profusely as green-foliaged cultivars.

**Propagation:** Softwood cuttings root in 4 weeks under mist with 1000 ppm IBA.

**Landscape Use:** Specimen plant, hedge or in a mixed border.

**Availability:** For a list of wholesale nurseries propagating this plant, contact Dr. Margaret Pooler, U.S. National Arboretum, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705. Margaret.Pooler@ars.usda.gov