

"A garden without a viburnum is akin to life without music or art."

Michael A. Dirr

What exactly are viburnums? Classified as shrubs, these 225 species are some of the most adaptable plants found in the landscape. The name viburnum means "wayfaring tree" in Latin, and it is possible that this referred to the ready way viburnums have of spreading their seeds—usually as a result of birds dispersing the fruits. Natives of the Eastern United States and the coordinating latitude throughout Asia, viburnums range from deciduous to the less hardy, semi-evergreen and evergreen species. Wonderful in landscaping, they are easy to grow, maintenance-free shrubs that will tolerate various soils and weather conditions.

What, then, makes them different from other shrubs grown today? The key word is variety. Because the species and cultivars are so numerous, there is a wide assortment to choose from, whether you're looking for fragrance, color, size or even wildlife value. And what's great about viburnums is that most of them offer three seasons of pleasure during the year: showy, delicate blossoms in the spring, lustrous green leaves throughout the summer, and pretty color change of foliage and fruits during the fall months.

The flower clusters are generally white, some with a creamy yellow or pink cast, and they vary in shape from round to flat-topped. Some varieties produce sterile flowers while others result in beautiful, bird-attracting berries. The blooms also range in fragrance from the spiciest perfume to some rather unpleasant odors (comparable to smelly shoes).

In autumn, the leaves of many viburnums

change from a vivid green to a variety of colors. The fruits also make a rainbow display, showing black to the brightest crimson, from combinations of green to red to blue-black. Birds of all kinds relish the fruits during fall months, so these versatile shrubs are often favorites of bird-lovers.

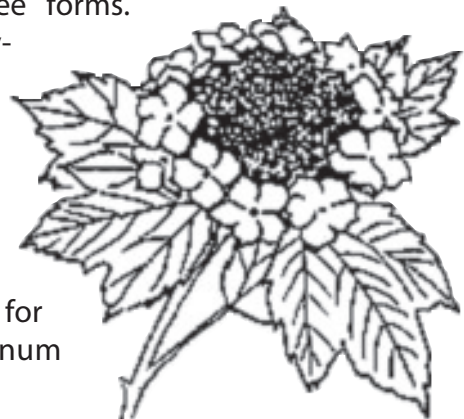
With so many different options, you're sure to find the viburnum just right for whatever space you have available in your garden. See the backside of this bulletin for the species and cultivars we recommend, and for suggestions on how to choose the viburnum that's perfect for you.

How To Choose The Right Viburnum For You...

There are many viburnums to choose from. But sometimes with so many options, it's difficult to make a decision. So here are some simple steps you can use in deciding which viburnum is right for you.

First, your choice must be dependent upon the space you have available in your landscape. Viburnums range in size from small and medium to large shrub and tree forms.

So before buying one, make sure you ask the nursery what the ultimate size and growth rate is for each viburnum considered.



Another important factor is the cultural requirements. While these shrubs are fairly adaptable, it is necessary to match each species with its natural growing conditions. Most deciduous viburnums are hardy in the northeast and midwest, and there are some semi-evergreen varieties that do nicely here as well. The evergreens are mostly found in the southern part of the United States, and are not recommended for growth in this area.

Once these basic factors have been established, the selection is narrowed down to small details. Do you prefer the round blossoms to the flat-topped ones? Do you want the sterile or fruit-bearing variety? What fruit colors do you find the most pleasing? Do you want a fragrant one or can you tolerate one with an unpleasant odor? Whatever you decide, there is no wrong answer to these questions, and your yard will be better for the viburnum you have planted.

SPECIES	SIZE	FLOWERS	FRUIT	SPECIAL FEATURES, OR REQUIREMENTS	BEST CULTIVARS
<i>V. burkwoodii</i> Burkwood Viburnum	6' H x 6-8' W	red buds to white, globular flowers	sparse, red to black	Flowers have great spicy-clove fragrance.	'Chenault' and 'Mohawk'
<i>V. carlesii</i> Korean Viburnum	5' x 6-8'	pink buds to white, globular flowers	sparse, red to black	Prized shrub for fragrant flowers.	'Compactum' and 'Aurora'
<i>V. cassinoides</i> * Witherod Viburnum	5-6' x 6-8'	creamy-white and flat-topped	pink to red to blue-black	Will tolerate wet soil. Spectacular for fruit.	
<i>V. dentatum</i> * Arrowwood Viburnum	6-8(to 15)' x 8-15'	creamy-white and flat-topped	blue-black	Adaptable to various light exposures & soil conditions	'Chicago Luster,' 'Autumn Jazz,' 'Blue Muffin'
<i>V. lantana</i> Wayfaringtree Viburnum	12' x 12-15'	creamy-white and flat-topped	orange-red to black	Very adaptable. Quite tolerant of dry soils.	'Mohican'
<i>V. plicatum</i> Doublefile Viburnum	6-10' x 8-10'	white and ball-shaped	fruitless	Strong horizontal branching habit	'Newport' and 'Popcorn'
<i>V. prunifolium</i> * Blackhaw Viburnum	12-15' x 8-12'	creamy-white and flat-topped	rose to blue-black	Adaptable and can be trained as small tree.	
<i>V. sieboldii</i> Siebold Viburnum	20-30' x 10-20'	creamy-white and flat-topped	rose red to blue-black	Excellent for large scale landscapes.	'Seneca'
<i>V. trilobum</i> * American Cranberrybush	8-12' x 8-12'	white and flat-topped	large, bright red	Tolerant of many soils including wet.	'Bailey's Compact,' 'Hahs,' 'Wentworth'

*species native to North America

References

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