American Cranberrybush
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(*Viburnum trilobum*)

**General Description**
A large, leggy, poorly branched native shrub found in wooded, usually moist areas, competing with the rest of the underbrush. In cultivation it may assume a fully-branched, reasonably dense form. Excellent orange-red fall color and red fruits.

**Leaves and Buds**
Bud Arrangement - Opposite.
Bud Color - Greenish-red and smooth, with 2 connate outer scales.
Bud Size - Plump, 1/5 to 1/6 inch.
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, trilobed.
Leaf Margins - Rounded or truncate at base, lobes acuminately tipped, coarsely dentate, sometimes middle lobe elongated and entire, petiole with shallow groove and small dome-shaped, usually stalked glands.
Leaf Surface - Smooth, pilose on veins beneath or nearly glabrous.
Leaf Length - 2 to 5 inches.
Leaf Width - 2 to 3 inches.
Leaf Color - Medium to dark green changing to yellow through red-purple in fall.

**Flowers and Fruits**
Flower Type - Flat-topped cymes.
Flower Color - White.
Fruit Type - Soft, berry-like drupes, 1/3 inch long.
Fruit Color - Bright red to scarlet.

**Form**
Growth Habit - Round-topped and fairly dense under cultivation, poorly branched and open in native habitat.
Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.
Crown Height - 8 to 12 feet.
Crown Width - 8 to 12 feet.
Bark Color - Gray-brown, glabrous, with a waxy appearance.
Root System - Shallow, fibrous, spreading.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
Soil Texture - Prefers fertile loamy soils.
Soil pH - 4.5 to 7.0.
Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 2.

**Cold Hardiness**
USDA Zone 2.

**Water**
Does best on well-drained sites with better than average moisture.

**Light**
Partial shade to full sun.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Medium to large shrub for farmstead windbreaks and riparian plantings.

**Wildlife**
Fruit eaten by a variety of birds.

**Agroforestry Products**
Fruit - Berries turn black in drying and have been used for making ink.
Food - Fruits processed as jam or jelly.
Medicinal - Some *Viburnum* species are used as a nerve sedative and anti-spasmatic for asthma, cramps, palpitation, heart disease and rheumatism.

**Urban/Recreational**
Specimen plant. Effective in small masses and borders.

**Cultivated Varieties**
Alfredo Compact American Cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum* ‘Alfredo Compact’)
Andrews American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* ‘Andrews’)
Bailey Compact American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* ‘Bailey Compact’)
Compact American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* ‘Compactum’)
Hah’s American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* ‘Hahs’)
Wentworth American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* ‘Wentworth’)

**Related Species**
Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)
European Cranberrybush (*V. opulus*)
Nannyberry Viburnum (*V. lentago*)
Wayfaringtree Viburnum (*V. lantana*)

**Pests**
No major pest problems. Occasional injury by dogwood borers.