

Nannyberry Viburnum



Nannyberry *Viburnum* (*Viburnum lentago*)

General Description

A large native tree-like shrub, occasionally found in North Dakota wooded areas. Attractive for its shiny foliage, red fall color and fruit display.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Lead gray, valvate in nature.

Bud Size - About 1/2 to 3/4 inch, long pointed, slightly curved.

Leaf Type and shape - Simple, elliptic-ovate, acuminate tipped.

Leaf Margins - Finely-toothed, petiole mostly winged with wavy margin.

Leaf Surface - Shiny foliage, glabrous or scurfy on the veins beneath.

Leaf Length - 2 to 4 inches.

Leaf Width - 1 to 2 inches.

Leaf Color - Dark green, red autumn color.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Flat cymes.

Flower Color - Creamy-white, no fragrance.

Seed Type - Drupe, 1/2 inch long.

Seed Color - Drupe turns reddish, changing to bluish-black when mature.

Form

Growth Habit - Mild suckering, becomes more open at maturity with arching branches.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium, winter.

Crown Height - 10 to 14 feet.

Crown Width - 8 to 12 feet.

Bark Color - Slightly pubescent to essentially glabrous, brownish-gray.

Root System - Shallow.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.0 to 7.5.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 2, 3, 4, 4C, 5.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Limited drought tolerance.

Light

Full sun to partial shade.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium to large shrub for farmstead windbreaks, and riparian plantings.

Wildlife

Food for wildlife, good cover.

Agroforestry Products

Products - Cut or dried flowers.

Food - Fruit used fresh, processed and dried. Native Americans ate it raw. White settlers used the bark for tea.

Medicinal - Used as diuretic, nerve sedative, for asthma and hayfever, and treatment of cramps and palpitation.

Urban/Recreational

Good for naturalizing and borders, attractive reddish fall colors are common.

Cultivated Varieties

None.

Related Species

American Cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Arrowwood Viburnum (*V. dentatum*)

European Cranberrybush (*V. opulus*)

Wayfaring Tree Viburnum (*V. lantana*)

Pests

Powdery mildew can be a pest under humid conditions.

No major pest problems.