

Viburnum carlesii - Koreanspice Viburnum (*Adoxaceae*)

Viburnum carlesii is a shrub with pubescent gray-green foliage, extremely fragrant pink-budded to white-floral, Apr. inflorescences, and a rounded growth habit.

FEATURES

Form

-medium-sized ornamental shrub
-maturing at about 8' tall x 8' wide
-upright

rounded growth habit, becoming spreading with age and usually branching close to the ground

-slow growth rate

Culture

-full sun to partial shade

-adaptable to poorer soils, soils of various pH, and drought

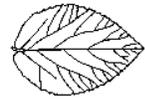
-propagated primarily by rooted stem cuttings, but also by seeds or grafting

-Honeysuckle Family, with no significant pest problems, but bacterial leaf spot and powdery mildew are occasional cosmetic diseases

-commonly available in B&B form

Foliage

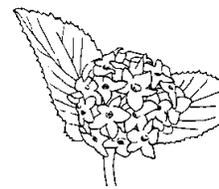
-gray-green to blue-green leaves are dull (that is, not shiny), deciduous (or nearly so), opposite, broad-elliptical to ovate, subtly serrated, thick, on a very short petiole, with a dense pubescence



on the upper leaf surface and even more densely pubescent on the lower surface, with a white-green color beneath

-autumn color is bronzed to wine in good years if placed in a sunny location, but is usually poor in shady areas, being of mixed or green color

Flowers



-dark pink buds open to white inflorescences tinged in pink, to 3" in diameter, opening in mid-Apr. with the emergent foliage and composed of hemispherical to spherical clusters of individual flowers

inflorescences are extremely fragrant and effective for 2 weeks

Fruit

-clusters of fruit change from green to red to black by early autumn, with each small fruit being broadly elliptical but distinctly flattened

-sparsely borne along the fruiting stalk due to poor cross-pollination, nearly hidden by the foliage

-ornamentally insignificant

Twigs

-twigs are tan and pubescent, becoming densely branching with age, and with buds that are naked (i.e., without true scales)

-the prominent terminal floral buds are knobby and obvious in winter, while the vegetative buds are terminal or lateral and elongated



Trunk

-mature bark is gray-brown and fissuring on the spreading trunks, which branch low to the ground and give the shrub its overall rounded or spreading growth habit

USAGE

Function

-informal hedge, border, entranceway, foundation, or specimen shrub, especially noted for its showy flowers that have a heavy fragrance

Texture

-medium texture in foliage and when bare

-thick density in foliage and when bare

Assets

-extremely fragrant mid-Apr. inflorescences

-dense and attractive, pubescent, gray-green to blue-green foliage

-usually branches close to the ground (i.e., generally not leggy with age)

Liabilities

-slow growth rate

-occasional leaf spot or powdery mildew are minor cosmetic foliage diseases

Habitat

-Zones 4 to 7

-Native to Korea and Japan

SELECTIONS

Alternates

-shrubs with grayish-green or bluish-green foliage (*Fothergilla gardenii*, *Ilex x meserveae*, *Viburnum lantana*, etc.)

-fragrant-flowering shrubs (*Clethra alnifolia*, *Itea virginica*, *Philadelphus* species, *Syringa* species, *Viburnum x burkwoodii*, *Viburnum x juddii*, etc.)

-dense and medium-sized, rounded to spreading informal hedges (*Cornus alba* Ivory Halo™, *Syringa meyeri*, *Viburnum x juddii*, *Weigela florida* 'Variegata', etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

-*V. carlesii* 'Cayuga' - noted for its larger inflorescences that do not open all at once, and thus having pink buds and white flowers on the same

inflorescence during the early flowering period, but it should be more prominently noted for its extremely dark-green, shiny, less pubescent, and larger leaves that clothe the stems in a dense coverage of foliage; very vigorous, often listed as a rounded shrub to 5' x 5', but closer to 8' x 5' and somewhat leggy with age

-*V. carlesii* 'Compactum' - slowly maturing to 3' x 3', a truly compact form of the species, but unfortunately rare in commerce

-*Viburnum x carlcephalum* - Carlcephalum or Fragrant Viburnum - maturing to 8' x 8', with huge (5" across) fragrant white spherical inflorescences, a hybrid of *V. carlesii* and *Viburnum macrocephalum*

-*Viburnum x juddii* - Judd Viburnum - slowly maturing to 8' x 8', identical in appearance and fragrance yet a slightly superior alternative to Koreanspice Viburnum, as it has better resistance to leaf spot and is easier to root for propagation; a hybrid of *V. carlesii* and *V. bitchiuense*