

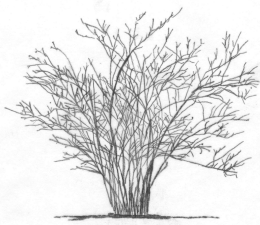
Viburnum opulus - European Cranberrybush (*Adoxaceae*)

Viburnum trilobum - American Cranberrybush (*Adoxaceae*)

Viburnum opulus is primarily known through its various cultivars. The most common is 'Compactum'. European Cranberrybush has showy creamy-white inflorescences in spring, red berries throughout autumn, and bold texture with raisin-like fruits in winter.

FEATURES

Form



- medium- to large-sized ornamental shrub (cultivars are smaller)
- species form matures at about 10' tall x 10' wide, although sometimes larger
- upright oval growth habit in youth, becoming arching

and spreading with age

-medium growth rate

Culture

-full sun to partial shade

-highly adaptable to permanently moist to wet soils, dry soils, poor soils, soils of various pH, heat, drought, and pollution

-pests: black aphids and black ants (cosmetically unattractive, at the terminus of the new shoots) and borers (damaging to individual mature stems); a disease (stem blight) may also occur, causing wilting and dieback of the terminal growth

-commonly available in B&B form

Foliage



- medium to dark green, opposite, ovate, trilobed, and deeply incised, about 3" long x 3" wide, with acute apices and a truncate base

-concave glands are often present on the upper petiole, giving it a warty appearance upon close inspection

-overall shape resembles a trilobed Maple leaf, while autumn color is often green then abscised, but may have tinges of purple or red

Flowers



- white, in late May and early June, as flat-topped inflorescences to 3" in diameter, composed of an outer ring of white sterile

flowers that open first, followed by the inner disc of creamy fertile flowers

Fruits

- green globular immature fruits of summer mature to pendulous clusters of bright cherry-red fruits in late Aug., persistent and attractive throughout autumn, then shriveling and fading in winter, and remaining into the following spring as droopy raisins (if not consumed by wildlife, primarily the birds)



Twigs

- stems are medium green and lightly grooved in summer, maturing to a light tan in winter, very stout and straight, sparsely branched when young, having winter buds that are large, smooth, very shiny, and red-brown

Trunk

- trunks are stout, upright, and straight when young, becoming slightly ridged, furrowing, and arching with maturity

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Function

- formal or informal hedge, border, entranceway, foundation, or specimen shrub, often in group plantings

Texture

- medium in foliage and bold when bare
- average density in foliage and open when bare

Assets

- 4 cultivars with excellent attributes, namely:

- creamy-white flowers in late spring and red berries in autumn for 'Compactum'
- creamy-white flowers in late spring and golden berries in autumn for 'Xanthocarpum'
- ultra-showy, sterile snowball flowers in spring for 'Roseum'
- attractive foliage on a facer shrub for 'Nanum'

- bird attraction in winter (for the fruiting forms)

- urban tolerant

Liabilities

- aphid and ant infestation in late spring and early summer is unsightly on the new stem growth when viewed up-close, but is not harmful to the plant
- borers and/or blight will sometimes cause individual stems to die back all the way to the ground as the shrub reaches maturity

- habit can become large, open, and gangly with age, and in need of pruning for shaping or rejuvenation

Habitat

- Zones 3 to 8
- Native to Eurasia and North Africa

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- shrubs with showy red berries in autumn and winter (*Aronia arbutifolia*, *Cotoneaster apiculatus*, *Ilex verticillata*, *Viburnum trilobum*, etc.)
- shrubs with a combination of sterile and fertile flowers on the same inflorescence (*Hydrangea* species, *Viburnum sargentii*, *V. trilobum*, etc.)

Cultivars – Variants – Related species

- V. opulus* 'Compactum' - the standard red-fruiting cultivar, being more compact (to 8' x 8'), densely flowering, and densely-fruited
- 'Nanum' - Dwarf European Cranberrybush - slowly growing to 3' x 3', densely foliated with essentially no flowers or fruits; new leaves emerge red-bronzed and rapidly change to dark green, often used as a facer shrub or dwarf shrub where foliage is the primary consideration



- V. opulus* 'Roseum' (also known as 'Sterile') - sterile flowers have many showy bracts creating an overall

spherical shape to the inflorescence, emerging light-green and changing to white, becoming pendulous, highly attractive as masses of globular inflorescences among the expanded foliage, and persistent into summer as faded bracts; to 10' x 10'

- V. opulus* 'Xanthocarpum' - golden-fruited form to 8' x 8'

-***Viburnum trilobum*** - American Cranberrybush - its cultivars are considered superior to *V. opulus* 'Compactum' in terms of their abundant red fruits (hold their color and turgor longer into winter) and autumn color (red-orange, red, or burgundy); its trilobed leaves are much less incised than European Cranberrybush, with sharply acuminate lobes; the warty glands on the upper petiole are convex and



slightly stalked; to zone 2 in cold hardiness, maturing at about 10' x 10', but not performing well in moist to wet sites