**Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum** - Doublefile Viburnum

(Adoxaceae)

**Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum** is a shrub known for its elegant beauty in form, flowering, occasional fruiting, and autumn color. Doublefile Viburnum vary in the display of these traits.

### FEATURES

**Form**
- medium-sized ornamental shrub
- maturing at about 8' tall x 10' wide
- layered vased growth habit in youth, becoming more layered horizontal with age
- medium growth rate

**Culture**
- full sun to partial shade
- performs best in partial sun in evenly moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soils; quite adaptable to soils of various pH, but not especially adaptable to poor soils, compacted soils, heavy clay soils with poor drainage, heat, drought, and pollution
- Honeysuckle Family, with no pests causing significant problems, but a branch canker on old, mature plants is the primary disease of concern, causing individual branches to die back to the ground - commonly available, primarily in B&B form

**Foliage**
- medium to dark green, opposite, ovate to elliptical, serrated, with impressed veins and a pubescence on the petiole and lower leaf surface
- foliage will diurnally wilt during the driest portions of summer
- autumn color is usually an attractive wine, maroon, or burgundy color, and persistent for 2-4 weeks in mid- to late autumn

**Flowers**
- white, in early May, atop 2" long peduncles above the angled stem plane and also in a "double file" on either side of the stem, effective for 2 weeks
- flat-topped fertile inflorescences are creamy-white, to 3" in diameter, and open shortly after the more showy outer ring of sterile flowers open first; one of the most showy shrubs when in flower

**Fruits**
- shrubs often do not set fruit due to a lack of appropriate cross-pollination, but when fruits do occur, they transition from green to pink-orange-red in mid-summer, mature to black by Sept., and then either abscise or are consumed by the birds

**Twigs**
- brown, pubescent to tomentose, with winter vegetative and floral buds somewhat elongated and pressed closely to the primary stems, with the floral buds slightly swollen and distinctly valvate

**Trunk**
- older branches develop fissuring bark as they mature into several main trunks; this is more pronounced on the larger "species" form, namely, *Viburnum plicatum*

### USAGE

**Function**
- single, dual, or group planting shrub for entranceways, foundations, raised planters, naturalized shrub borders, or as a specimen

**Texture**
- medium texture in foliage and when bare
- thick density in foliage and when bare

**Assets**
- extremely showy white inflorescences in mid-spring, arranged in doublefile fashion alongside the main stems and above the stem planes
- excellent vased to horizontal branching habit
- good burgundy autumn color

**Liabilities**
- basal trunk canker can arise on individual branches with advanced age, causing them to die one-at-a-time
- marginally hardy in severe zone 5 winters, and best placed in a wind-protected site in zone 5 for this reason
- foliage will diurnally wilt during the driest portions of summer

**Habitat**
- Zones 5 to 8
- Native to China and Japan

### SELECTIONS

**Alternates**
- shrubs with very showy spring inflorescences (*Forsythia x intermedia*, *Rhododendron catawbiense*, *Spiraea nipponica* 'Snowmound', *Syringa vulgaris* 'Sensation', *Viburnum carlesii*, etc.)

**Cultivars - Variants - Related species**
- 'Mariesii' - the most popular form, maturing at about 8' x 10', with a 45 degree angle to the horizontal in its graceful branching; leaves hang pendulous on either side of the branches; **one of the best Viburnums for the midwest**
- 'Shasta' - inflorescences are about 5" across, on a very spreading and horizontal shrub, to 6' x 10'
- *Viburnum plicatum* - the true "species" form which is actually sterile, having been discovered and named before the normal fertile form was found, noted for its large size (to 15' x 15'), with huge showy snowball flowers that emerge lime green and transition to white, persistent into summer and slowly fading and dropping the showy florets
- V. plicatum 'Newport' (also known as 'Nanum Newport') - a compact cultivar of the sterile "species" form, slowly maturing to 4' x 5' with a globed habit, densely foliaged with shorter internodes, having sterile snowball inflorescences that mature to white, excellent burgundy autumn color, and optimally utilized as a specimen, foundation, or facer shrub