Viburnum × burkwoodii - Burkwood Viburnum (Adoxaceae)

Viburnum × burkwoodii is a shrub known for glossy, dark green, semi-evergreen foliage, fragrant, white, April flowers, and good growth habit. Burkwood Viburnum is one of the best all-around Viburnums.

FEATURES

Form
-medium shrub; 8' tall x 6' wide
-upright oval, becoming spreading, usually branching to the ground
-medium rate

Culture
-full sun to partial shade
-performs best in full sun in moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soils, but it is quite adaptable to poor soils, compacted soils, soils of various pH, heat, drought, and pollution
-propagated primarily by rooted stem cuttings, but also by seeds
-Honeysuckle Family, with no significant pest problems, but bacterial leaf spot and powdery mildew are occasional cosmetic foliage diseases
-commonly available in B&B form

Foliage
-opposite, dark green, semi-evergreen
-elliptical with very shallow dentate margins
-at maturity, glossy above with small goose bump-like projections terminating in sparse pubescence
-paler below
-short petiole
-good foliage effect

Flowers
-pink buds opening to white flowers; mid-Apr.
-slightly hemispherical, clusters of flowers to 2.5" in total diameter
-fragrant
-effective for 2 weeks

Fruits
-green to red (Sept.) to black (Oct.)
in clusters and slightly elongated
-sparsely borne

Twigs
-tan with pubescence; relatively thin; fairly prominent terminal floral buds in winter

Trunk
-not applicable

Assets
-semi-evergreen glossy foliage
-fragrant Apr. flowers
-urban tolerant
-branches to the ground

Liabilities
-none serious

Habitat
-Zones 4 to 8
-both parents native to the Orient

USAGE

Function
-formal or informal hedge, border, entranceway, foundation, or specimen shrub
-one of the best all-around Viburnums for the Midwest

Texture
-medium texture in foliage and when semi-evergreen

SELECTIONS

Alternates
-broadleaf semi-evergreen to evergreen shrubs (Myrica pensylvanica, Rhododendron, Viburnum × pragense, Viburnum × rhytidophylloides, etc.)
-fragrant-flowering shrubs (Clethra alnifolia, Itea virginica, Philadelphus species, Syringa species, Viburnum carlesii, Viburnum × juddii, etc.)

Cultivars – Variants – Related species
-the species is a hybrid between V. carlesii (for showy fragrant flowers) and V. utile (for evergreen trait)
-V. × burkwoodii 'Chenaultii' - autumn foliage is bronzed, and inflorescences flower profusely 1 week later than the normal hybrid; sometimes alternatively listed as a separate hybrid of the genus
-V. × burkwoodii 'Mohawk' - autumn color is better, being a mixture of green-orange-red hues or a solid burgundy color, and also having dark red floral buds that are delayed in opening (and thus extending the effective bloom period in spring); to 6' x 6', being more compact than the normal hybrid; the cultivar of choice