Viburnum x rhytidophylloides - Lantanaphyllum Viburnum
(Adoxaceae)

**FEATURES**

**Form**
- large, semi-evergreen, broad-leaved ornamental shrub or foliage shrub
- maturing at about 12' tall x 12' wide, although sometimes larger
- upright columnar growth habit in youth, becoming more rounded and spreading with age
- medium to rapid growth rate

**Culture**
- full sun to partial shade
- adaptable to poor soils, compacted soils, soils of various pH, dry soils, drought, pollution, and heat
- propagated by rooted stem cuttings
- Honeysuckle Family, with no serious pest or disease problems, except for occasional cosmetic leaf spot
- commonly available in B&B form

**Foliage**
- dark green above while much paler white-green beneath, being semi-evergreen, leathery, thick, and having a rough texture with sunken veins above, with prominently large veins beneath that have a reticulate branching pattern
- leaves are opposite, narrowly ovate to oblong, lightly serrated or entire, with an acute apex and cuneate to cordate base above a thick petiole, about 3-4 times as long as they are wide, and often in a tattered and ragged semi-evergreen state by early winter
- autumn color is dark green and slowly absicising, with the foliage remnants becoming wind burned and a very unattractive brown-green during the winter

**Flowers**
- green-cream, creamy-white, or cream-brown (due to damage by late frosts) flat-topped inflorescences occur up to 4" in diameter, in late Apr. and early May, being present for about 2 weeks but not showy in spite of their large size
- floral buds are set by mid-summer (as are most shrubs) and may sporadically open in late summer and early autumn

**Fruits**
- at first green, then transitioning to red, red-orange, or red-yellow by mid-summer, then maturing to black in late Aug. and early Sept.
- often sparse or non-existent

**Twigs**
- emerging green-white, stout, and strongly scurfy-pubescent, but changing to a noticeable orange-brown by winter
- winter buds are large; floral buds are prominent terminal knobs, while vegetative buds are naked and much elongated, with terminal vegetative buds much larger than the lateral buds

**Trunk**
- strongly multi-stemmed to multi-trunked, boldly textured, and very stout, with heavy branches only slightly arching with age, and old leggy trunks being supplemented with rapidly-growing basal suckers with age

**USAGE**

**Function**
- formal or informal hedge, border, entranceway, spacious foundation, utilitarian, or deciduous screen shrub, being the boldest-textured Viburnum

**Texture**
- bold texture when in foliage, semi-evergreen, or nearly deciduous
- thick density in foliage but average density otherwise

**Assets**
- outstanding summer foliage (leathery, dense, and dark green)
- striking bold texture (best displayed when in summer foliage)
- urban tolerant, with vigorous growth
- semi-showy green-white flowers in spring

**Liabilities**
- semi-evergreen foliage is tattered, wind burned, and unattractive throughout much of the winter
- easily gets out-of-bounds due to its vigorous growth legginess with age, in part hidden by the basal suckers
- inflorescences may sporadically open in summer or early autumn (some consider this an asset)

**Habitat**
- Zones 4 to 8
- parents of this hybrid are Wayfaringtree Viburnum (Viburnum lantana, native to Eurasia) and Leatherleaf Viburnum (Viburnum rhytidophyllum, native to China)

**SELECTIONS**

**Alternates**
- bold-textured shrubs noted for their dense and relatively large foliage (Hydrangea quercifolia, Viburnum lantana, etc.)
- utilitarian shrubs that are deciduous (Rhamnus frangula 'Columnaris', Viburnum lantana, etc.) or evergreen (Juniperus chinensis 'Spearmint', Taxus x media 'Hicksii', Thuja occidentalis 'Nigra', etc.)

**Cultivars - Related species**
- V. x rhytidophylloides 'Allegany' (sometimes spelled 'Allegheny') - Alleghany Viburnum - more compact and upright-rounded in mature form, resistant to leaf spot, very attractive-foliaged, heavier fruiting, and slightly more cold hardy; the standard cultivar of choice
- Viburnum rhytidophyllum - Leatherleaf Viburnum - similar to its progeny except that its broadleaf foliage is evergreen, with leaf undersides and young stems having a rich, dense, orange tomentosity that is very striking; also of bold texture, but only cold hardy to zone 6 (or marginally hardy in a wind-protected site in zone 5)