

American Cranberrybush



American Cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum*)

General Description

A large, leggy, poorly branched native shrub found in wooded, usually moist areas, competing with the rest of the underbrush. In cultivation it may assume a fully-branched, reasonably dense form. Excellent orange-red fall color and red fruits.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Greenish-red and smooth, with 2 connate outer scales.

Bud Size - Plump, 1/5 to 1/6 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, trilobed.

Leaf Margins - Rounded or truncate at base, lobes acuminate tipped, coarsely dentate, sometimes middle lobe elongated and entire, petiole with shallow groove and small dome-shaped, usually stalked glands.

Leaf Surface - Smooth, pilose on veins beneath or nearly glabrous.

Leaf Length - 2 to 5 inches.

Leaf Width - 2 to 3 inches.

Leaf Color - Medium to dark green changing to yellow through red-purple in fall.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Flat-topped cymes.

Flower Color - White.

Fruit Type - Soft, berry-like drupes, 1/3 inch long.

Fruit Color - Bright red to scarlet.

Form

Growth Habit - Round-topped and fairly dense under cultivation, poorly branched and open in native habitat.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 8 to 12 feet.

Crown Width - 8 to 12 feet.

Bark Color - Gray-brown, glabrous, with a waxy appearance.

Root System - Shallow, fibrous, spreading.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Prefers fertile loamy soils.

Soil pH - 4.5 to 7.0.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 2.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Does best on well-drained sites with better than average moisture.

Light

Partial shade to full sun.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium to large shrub for farmstead windbreaks and riparian plantings.

Wildlife

Fruit eaten by a variety of birds.

Agroforestry Products

Fruit - Berries turn black in drying and have been used for making ink.

Food - Fruits processed as jam or jelly.

Medicinal - Some *Viburnum* species are used as a nerve sedative and anti-spasmodic for asthma, cramps, palpitation, heart disease and rheumatism.

Urban/Recreational

Specimen plant. Effective in small masses and borders.

Cultivated Varieties

Alfredo Compact American Cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum* 'Alfredo Compact')

Andrews American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* 'Andrews')

Bailey Compact American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* 'Bailey Compact')

Compact American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* 'Compactum')

Hah's American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* 'Hahs')

Wentworth American Cranberrybush (*V. trilobum* 'Wentworth')

Related Species

Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

European Cranberrybush (*V. opulus*)

Nannyberry Viburnum (*V. lentago*)

Wayfaringtree Viburnum (*V. lantana*)

Pests

No major pest problems. Occasional injury by dogwood borers.

Viburnum trilobum (American cranberry bush)



Hardiness Zones: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Botanical Name: *Viburnum trilobum* vy-BURN-um try-LOW-bum **Common Name:** American cranberry bush

Genus: *Viburnum*

This deciduous, rounded shrub grows to 15 feet tall with maple-like, lobed, dark green leaves that turn shades of red, yellow, and purple in autumn. White flowers resembling lace-cap hydrangeas bloom in spring and are followed by abundant red fruit loved by birds. Grow in a woodland garden or border, or as a wildlife plant.

Noteworthy characteristics: Foliage shaped like maple leaves. Showy flowers in late spring followed by edible, red fruit. North American native.

Care: Grow in full sun or partial shade. Tolerant of most any moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soil.

Propagation: Sow seed in autumn, in a cold frame or seedbed. Take greenwood cuttings in summer.

Problems: Insects such as aphids, scale insects, weevils, Japanese beetles, mealybugs, and treehoppers are common, while Botrytis, rust, mildews, wood rot, Verticillium wilt, leaf spots, and dieback also occur.

Height	10 ft. to 15 ft.
Spread	10 ft. to 15 ft.
Growth Pace	Moderate Grower
Light	Full Sun to Part Shade
Moisture	Medium Moisture
Maintenance	Moderate
Characteristics	Attracts Birds; Native; Showy Fall Foliage; Showy Flowers; Showy Fruit
Bloom Time	Late Spring; Spring
Flower Color	White Flower
Uses	Beds and Borders
Style	Woodland Garden
Seasonal Interest	Spring Interest, Summer Interest, Fall Interest
Type	Shrubs

Taken from: www.finegardening.com