

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.