

A Variety of Viburnums

Viburnums are a large group of plants that include many options for the home gardener. Some varieties are small shrubs while others are small trees growing to a height of 30 feet at maturity. Viburnums can be deciduous, evergreen, or semi-evergreen. Foliage is green, leathery and dense, making viburnums an excellent choice for screens.

In the spring, viburnums provide flowers in a variety of colors and shapes. Some viburnums have striking fall color with foliage turning red, maroon, bronze, yellow or purple. Many viburnum species and cultivars produce fruit in the fall. Fruit color is highly variable and can be red, yellow, black, purple or orange. The fruit is very attractive to wildlife.

Viburnums are low maintenance plants and can be grown in part shade to full sun. In general, they prefer soil pH from 5 to 7. These plants usually do not have pest or disease problems. There are a number of viburnums that are considered to be deer resistant. See Rutgers Fact Sheet E271, "**Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance**". <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=E271>

Here are a few viburnums perfect for Ocean County.

Viburnum prunifolium, blackhaw viburnum

- Native plant; adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions
- Deciduous large shrub or small tree; deer resistant
- Plant in full sun
- Good heat and drought tolerance
- Small white flowers in spring
- Red to purple foliage in fall with blue-black fruits

Viburnum opulus var. *americanum*, American cranberry bush

- Native plant with edible berries
- Large, dense deciduous shrub; deer resistant
- Plant in moist, well-drained soil
- Leaves similar in shape to maple leaves
- Large white flower clusters in spring
- Bright red fruits in fall with yellow-red to red-purple foliage

Viburnum lentago, nannyberry

- Native plant
- Deciduous large shrub or small tree
- Small white flower clusters in spring
- Plant in full sun to part shade
- Drought tolerant once established

Checklist for November

Flower and Vegetable Garden

- ✓ Water perennial beds thoroughly before the ground freezes.
- ✓ Pre-chill tulips and hyacinths for indoor forcing.

Indoor Plants

- ✓ Check indoor plants to ensure they are receiving enough water, humidity and air circulation. Check for spider mites and scale. Treat as needed.
Please see University of Maryland Extension – Spider Mites – Houseplants and Scale Insects
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/spider-mites-houseplants>
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/scale-insects-houseplants>

Trees and Shrubs

- ✓ Fertilize shade trees after leaf fall. See Rutgers Fact Sheet FS031 "**How to Fertilize Shade Trees**" for additional information.
<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=FS031>

Lawn

- ✓ Rake and compost shredded leaves. See Rutgers Fact Sheet FS074 "**Backyard Leaf Composting.**"
<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS074/>
- ✓ Continue to mow lawns. The last cut should be 2½" high.
- ✓ Do not fertilize lawn after November 15, as per New Jersey Fertilizer Law.

snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/fertilizerlawFAQ.html

Viburnum acerifolium L.

mapleleaf viburnum

USDA Plant Database

