

Viburnum prunifolium

Black Haw

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Common throughout the Mid-Atlantic (except the northern half of Pennsylvania), this elegant shrub grows mainly in thickets and woods. The upright oval crown common in young plants often becomes, with age, irregular with drooping lower branches. Creamy white flowers give way to pink berry-like fruits (drupes), edible when ripened to deep blue-black.



Shrub	Shrub and Close-up of Flowers
Height: 12–15 feet	 
Spread: 6–12 feet	
Bloom Color: White	
Characteristics	
Large, upright, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or small, single-trunk tree	
Deep green oval leaves	
Flat clusters of creamy, sweetly fragrant flowers in April and May	
Edible blue-black drupes from July to November	
Flaming red to burgundy fall foliage	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil, drought, air pollution, and black walnut	
No serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage but may browse twigs & foliage	
Fruit may be eaten when ripe or used in preserves	
Flowers attract myriad (mainly small) bees, flies and Lepidoptera; larval host to various moths including Hummingbird Clearwing; fruits attract birds and small animals	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Average, well-drained	<i>Eleagnus umbellata</i> - Autumn Olive
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> - Burning Bush
Water Requirements: Dry, Moist	<i>Ligustrum species</i> - Privets
Prune immediately after flowering because buds for next year's flowers form in summer	
Use as specimen plant, in shrub borders, in native plant gardens, or as hedge or screen	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–9	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, National Garden, U.S. Botanic Garden



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