

Viburnum prunifolium

Black Haw

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

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



Shrub	April Shrub, Flowers, Foliage; Oct. Tree, Fruit
Height: 12–15 feet	
Spread: 6–12 feet	
Bloom Color: White	
Characteristics	
Large, upright, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or small, single-trunk tree	
Opposite , finely serrated, ovate to obovate , glabrous leaves turn flaming red to burgundy in fall	
Cymes of creamy, sweetly fragrant, sessile or pedunculate flowers in April and May	
Edible blue-black drupes from July to November	
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	
Attracts myriad (mainly small) bees, flies, and lepidopterans to the flowers and birds and small animals to fruit; larval host to ~102 lepidopterans including Hummingbird & Snowberry Clearwings	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Average, well-drained	Eleagnus umbellata - Autumn Olive
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Euonymus alatus - Burning Bush
Water Requirements : Dry, Moist	Ligustrum spp. - Privets
Prune immediately after flowering because buds for next year's flowers form in summer	Viburnum spp. - Asian Viburnums
Use as specimen plant, in shrub borders, in native plant gardens, or as hedge or screen	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3a–9b	*It is native in DC and common in DE, MD, and throughout VA. In PA, it is found mostly in the southern half of the state.

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

Images by Elaine Mills, private gardens, Arlington, Virginia and (flowers) National Garden, U.S. Botanic Garden



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