

A perfectly disgusting fruit

What's the worst tasting fruit?

The American cranberrybush viburnum.

Take a walk outside and look for any fruits on trees or shrubs. You won't find many fruits. The birds ate almost all of them a long time ago.

You will find the red fruits of American cranberry bush (*Viburnum trilobum*) hanging in the shrubs. Although food sources in winter are at a premium, birds won't come near the fruits of American cranberry bush—the fruits taste disgusting!

That's good news for us, because we can enjoy looking at the glistening scarlet fruits all winter long.

In general, viburnums are a special group of shrubs. Dr. Michael Dirr, a leading national authority on landscape plants wrote, "*A garden without a viburnum is akin to life without music and art.*"

Viburnums are noted for the color they add to the landscape

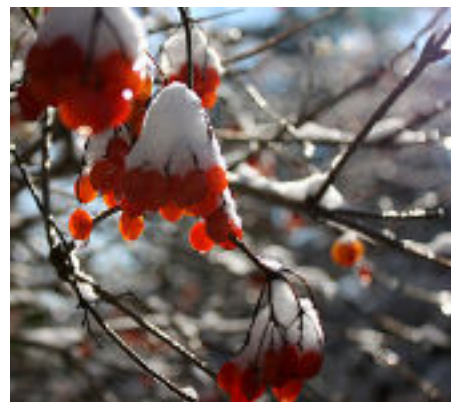
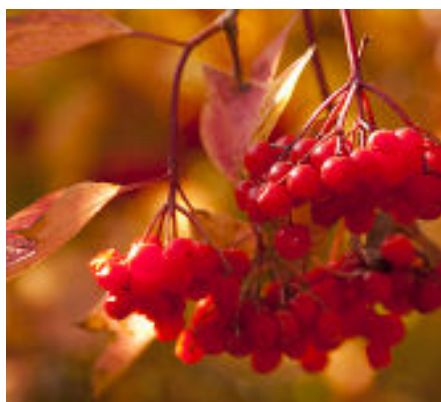


all year round. They have beautiful white flowers in spring; this is followed by clean, green foliage in summer. The foliage reddens in fall and the clusters of fruit add much-needed color to the landscape in winter.

Among the popular *V. trilobum* cultivars, 'Wentworth' is noted for its rich red fall color and big fruits. It was selected for its fruit production and potential for use in

making jams and jellies (yes, even this fruit can be edible if you add enough sugar to the recipe). It grows about 10 to 12 feet tall and wide.

'Redwing' grows about 8 feet tall and wide. Its foliage is darker green and has brilliant red fall color. This 'Chicagoland Grows' introduction was selected for its fast growth and handsome form.



Year-round color: pure white blossoms in spring; clean, green foliage in summer turns reddish in fall; and fruits persist through much of winter.

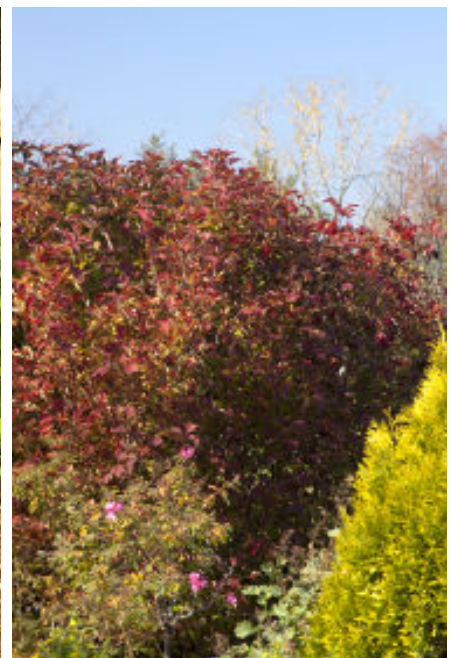
'Bailey Compact is smaller (6 feet) and has attractive foliage with a red tinge in spring. It does not flower or fruit very much.

Viburnum trilobum is extremely hardy (Zone 2) and makes an attractive, informal hedge. It is one of the easiest to grow shrubs.

Other popular viburnums suited for North Dakota include arrowwood viburnum (*V. dentatum*), which is a sturdy, upright shrub with great fall color and blue fruits. Its branches were used by Native Americans to make arrows.

Wayfaringtree viburnum (*V. lantana*) tolerates dry soils and has late maroon color. Often used as a hedge, it holds onto its leaves into early winter. Its fruits are very dark red. The variety 'Mohican' is a compact selection and is very attractive.

Nannyberry viburnum (*V. lentago*) is taller (15 feet) and sometimes used as a screen in naturalized settings. Its dark blue fruits will persist through November. DG



Top: New foliage has a reddish hue. Bottom left: 'Baileys Compact'. Bottom right: fall color of 'Redwing'.

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