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ARTICLE TITLE: Viburnum dilatatum Thunb. cv. 'Erie'

ARTICLE AUTHOR: Donald R. Egolf

VOLUME: 18

ISSUE:

MONTH:

YEAR: 1971

PAGES: 23-25

ISSN: 0005-4003

OCLC #:

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 ARTICLE AUTHOR: Donald R. Egolf
 VOLUME: 18
 ISSUE:
 MONTH:
 YEAR: 1971
 PAGES: 23-25
 ISSN: 0005-4003
 OCLC #: LUU OCLC #: 2250265
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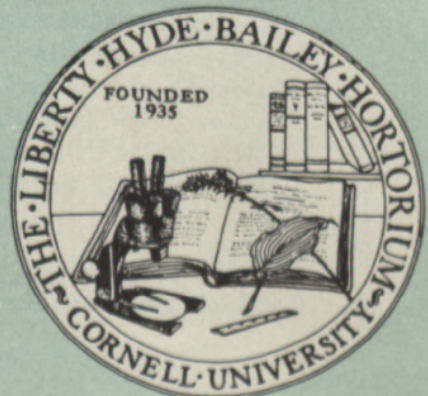
A Quarterly Journal of Horticultural Taxonomy

Vol. 18

Spring 1971

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Viburnum dilatatum Thunb. cv. 'Erie' [Caprifoliaceae]
N. A. 32226, P. I. 347259

Donald R. Egolf*

Another noteworthy viburnum cultivar, *Viburnum dilatatum* Thunberg cv. 'Erie', has been selected at the U. S. National Arboretum. Since viburnums are self- or cross-compatible in varying degrees, the commercial propagation of species from open-pollinated seed yields populations which probably include complex hybrids. Such heterogeneous seedlings cannot ensure the home gardener a superior plant that will be outstanding in flower, fruit, and growth habit. With greater emphasis on clonal propagation and the planting of several select cultivars in close proximity to ensure cross-fertility, the gardener will always be rewarded with spectacular fruiting specimens. 'Erie' takes its place with 'Iroquois' and 'Catskill' (Egolf, 1966), two cultivars of *V. dilatatum* previously released by the Crops Research Division, in providing the nurseryman and the consumer with select and reliable ornamentals.

One plant raised from seed of *Viburnum dilatatum* obtained from Dr. Sinske Hattori, Hattori Botanical Laboratory, Obi, Nichinan, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan, was distinct in producing abundant inflorescences of coral-pink fruit. This, here named 'Erie', was selected in 1964, when it first fruited heavily; it has been consistently heavy-fruited each season. The plant has developed into a bushy shrub with dull-green leaves which are variable in size and shape and assume good yellow, orange, and red autumn coloration to accent the abundant fruit display. The fruit is even more conspicuous after the leaves have fallen and persists on the plant until late winter. However, as the season advances, the coral coloration becomes less intense.

This cultivar is as adaptable to cultivation under diverse climatic and soil conditions as *V. dilatatum* itself. 'Erie' is hardy in Zone 5b** and can be expected to thrive in the same areas as the species. It will grow well in many exposures and soils, but will do best in sun and heavy loam soils with a pH of 6.0-6.5. Small plants propagated by cuttings will frequently flower the first season, but it is not until the third year that the plant produces heavy fruiting.

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**Plant Hardiness Zone Map, U. S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Publ. 814. 1960.



1. *Viburnum dilatatum* cv. 'Erie', showing (at top) change in fruit color with frost in late autumn, and (at bottom) a specimen plant in early May with abundant inflorescences.

'Erie' is a deciduous, bushy shrub, 2 m high and 3.3 m wide; branches erect and wide-spreading, dark gray-brown, pilose when young but glabrescent when older, with prominent orange-brown lenticels; winter buds scaly, reddish-brown, covered with pale-gray tomentum; leaves opposite, very variable in size and shape, 8-12 cm long, often as broad (8-10 cm), usually abruptly short-acuminate, rounded or subcordate at base, coarsely toothed, sparsely pubescent above, and pilose, especially on the veins and in tufts in the vein axils, beneath, veins 8-14 pairs, Green 137A above with the reverse Yellow Green 146A, petiole pilose, 1.5-3.5 cm long; cymes 10-16 cm in diameter, very numerous, pilose, many-branched, mostly 5-rayed, on peduncles 1.5-4.0 cm long; flowers 400-900, creamy-white, 5-7 mm in diameter, all similar, perfect, sessile or short-pedicelled, appearing in mid-May, calyx pilose, the lobes orbicular, corolla rotate, the lobes suborbicular, pubescent on back, stamens 5, exserted, ovary 1-loculed, 1-ovuled; fruits 60-300 per inflorescence, the inflorescence 10-18 cm across, fruit an ovate, much flattened drupe 7-10 mm long, 6.0-7.5 mm wide, glabrous, crowned by the persistent calyx, ripening in late August, Red 46B above, Orange 25C and 25D on underside, with first frost becoming Greyed Red 179B, and in midwinter Greyed Purple 185A, long-persistent on the plant, stone elliptic-ovate, 6.0-8.5 mm long, 4.5-6.0 mm wide, compressed, with three dorsal and two ventral grooves. The somatic chromosome number is $2n = 18$.

All color designations are based on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1966. Herbarium specimens and photographs of 'Erie' have been deposited in the U. S. National Arboretum Herbarium. The cultivar name 'Erie' has been registered with the U. S. National Arboretum, the international registration authority for *Viburnum* cultivars, in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, 1969.

The Crops Research Division of the Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, releases 'Erie', but has no plants for sale. A limited number of plants for propagation purposes will be available to arboreta, botanic gardens, experiment stations, and cooperating nurserymen. Plants will be available to the home gardener from nurseries when they have been commercially propagated in sufficient quantity for retail sales.

Literature Cited

- Egolf, D. R. 1966. Eight new *Viburnum* cultivars [Caprifoliaceae]. *Baileya* 14: 106-122.