

Levine, Emily (Emily Levine)

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

Request an Article

ILLiad TN: **889443**



Call # **SB403 .N877x**

Journal Title: **Nursery management & production**

Volume: **14** Issue: **1**

Month/Year: **1998**

Pages: **14-15**

Article Author: **,Michael Dirr**

Article Title: *Viburnums*

Location: **CYT**

1/6/2015 7:40 AM

**Photocopied materials are all delivered electronically.
Those items that are not of adequate quality for scanning
will be mailed at library discretion.**

Sent

Updated



Michael A. Dirr

Contributing editor Michael A. Dirr is a professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia and is author of the widely used book, "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants."

2 worthy *Viburnums* primed for selection

For the past four years, Bonnie and I terminated the southern summer with a vacation in Maine. These vacations have become synonymous with hiking the wilds, plant hunting, photography, spiritual renewal and blueberry cream pie. A particular field of lowbush blueberry, *Vaccinium angustifolium*, on Route 15 is initiating fall color and the first indicator that the week will be rewarding, rain or shine.

We always hike Cadillac Mountain, Acadia National Park, and it is there that *Viburnum cassinoides*, with-rod viburnum, with its rich pink to blackish fruits and rose to red-purple fall color, beckons the passerby to appreciate and

savor the beauty. My many photographs attest to the aesthetics of this seldom-cultivated shrub. I question why no one (Is there someone?) has exploited the variation in habit, foliage, fruit and fall color for the betterment of American gardens. 'Nanum' is described in British literature but I have yet to observe this clone.

In my hikes through the southern Appalachians in Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia, the plant is common at higher elevations and into the piedmont. I have seen plants from 1,200- to 6,000-foot elevations. Most are rather loose shrubs in the understory, but when open grown are more dense and approximate 8-12 feet (sometimes to 15 feet) high and wide and produce creamy-white flowers in 2- to 5-inch-diameter, flat-topped cymes. In 1997, on May 24 plants along Panther Creek in North Georgia were in full flower. The species on Bunches Bald (6,000 feet) along the Blue Ridge Parkway was in full flower on



Above: Most *Viburnum cassinoides* are loose shrubs in the understory, but when grown in the open are more dense, reaching 8-12 feet high and wide and producing creamy-white flowers.



***Viburnum nudum* has larger flowers and lustrous, rich-green leaves, while fall color is vivid red-purple (inset).**

Photos by Michael A. Dirr

July 12. In the Dirr Garden in Athens, Ga., (800 feet), the species flowers in late April to early May.

The notable Panther Creek specimen was growing at water's edge and the flowers appeared yellowish from a distance. On close inspection, the abundant stamens provided the yellowish coloration with the white petals. Interestingly, at

in fall. New emerging leaves are bronze to purple tinted.

Buds are valvate, dusty brown to gray-brown, 1/2 inch or longer and remind me of an elongated pencil point; flower buds are smaller (occur at terminal of stem) with a bulbous (swollen) base. When new leaves emerge, the two scales become reflexed. On close inspection, the bud and leaf development are intriguing.

Firm-wooded (June) cuttings are rooted with 5,000 parts per million potassium indolebutyric acid. We

have been quite successful with the species.

I believe there is terrific room for selection and know the species is genetically diverse to allow for superior selections. Adaptability easily umbrellas Zones 4-8.

A related species — *V. nudum*

A related species, *Viburnum nudum*, smooth with-rod, occurs from Connecticut to Florida, west to Kentucky and Texas. Although considered less hardy than *V. cassi-*

Continued On Page 72



V. cassinoides fall color (top), fruit (middle) and flower (bottom).

the higher elevations, the coloration is more creamy. Flowers have a weak odor, neither delightful nor offensive.

The fruits change from green, pink, red, blue to blackish with often multiple colors in the same infructescence. The fruits color in the Dirr Garden during late July; fruits in Maine color late August into September. The plant fruits quite well in shade but maximum fruit set occurs in full sun.

Leaves are dull, dark green, toothed along the margin and turn orange-red, dull crimson and purple

AQUATROLS
AquaGro®
2000
 Media Surfactant

Correct the following problems:

- Wetting of pre-filled containers that dry out prior to planting.
- Containers that will not drain.
- Excess leaching of applied water or fertilizer.
- Containers drying out in the field.
- Uniformity of moisture in container mixes.

AQUATROLS
 Formulating For Effectiveness

5 North Olney Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 USA
 1-609-751-0309 • FAX: 1-609-751-3859
1-800-257-7797

*Available in
 liquid and granular
 formulations*

Circle Fax/Info. Card #10

Since 1875



Mount Arbor Nurseries L.C.

201 East Ferguson
Shenandoah, IA 51601

800-831-4125 • (Fax) 712-246-1841

Large Selection of Quality
Bareroot French Hybrid
Lilacs, and Deciduous
Shrubs. Call for availability
& prices.

Growing Quality Bareroot
Lilacs, Deciduous Shrubs,
Peonies, Container Shrubs &
Perennials.

Circle Fax/Info. Card #70



APPALACHIAN NURSERIES

HARDY POTTED LINERS

APPALACHIAN NURSERIES
P.O. BOX 87
WAYNESBORO, PA 17268
PHONE 717-762-4733, FAX 717-762-7532

- * Free catalogue on request
- * Booking orders for Spring '98
- * Hundreds of varieties
- * Minimum order 3 trays
- * Quality liners for over 50 years

Circle Fax/Info. Card #71

"Professional Service
with the Personal Touch!"

computers & software

for The Nursery Industry

- Order Processing
- Contract Order Processing
- Inventory Size/Grade Analysis
- Farm Production Analysis
- Warehouse/Location Analysis
- Customer Analysis
- Accounts Receivable
- Sales Analysis
- Bar Coding Module
- Accounts Payable
- General Ledger
- Garden Center Module
- Fixed Asset Management
- Landscape Design
- Spread Sheet
- Payroll
- Financial Planning/
Budgeting

Bennett & Associates, Inc. • Systems and Design

P.O. Box 17944 Salem, OR 97305 • Ph (503) 390-2880 • Fax (503) 390-3011
sales@bennettandassoc.com

• 1 - 8 0 0 - 8 0 0 - 7 4 5 6 •

Circle Fax/Info. Card #72

Viburnums

Continued From Page 15

noides it has been growing at the Morton Arboretum (Zones 4-5) since 1954. *Viburnum nudum* was merged with *V. cassinoides*, but appears to be a legitimate taxonomic entity, i.e., species. Two of the modern taxonomic references treat the two species as separate entities; J.T. Kartesz and K. Kartesz ("Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of North America") reduce *V. cassinoides* to a variety of *V. nudum*.

The differences between the two as I view them include larger, more lustrous, elliptical-oval leaves, entire (usually) or finely toothed, vivid red-purple fall color and blue fruits on *V. nudum*. From a garden perspective, *V. nudum* is more appealing.

'Winterthur' is a lovely, glossy, rich green-leaf form that holds up well in the heat. Another form in our garden came from the now-defunct Earthshade Nursery in Warne, N.C. It appears more vigorous than 'Winterthur' and possesses larger flowers and leaves (lustrous, rich green).

A check of herbarium specimens reflected the plant's moist to wet soil affinity and coastal plain habitat. A moist area below a spring, peat bog, damp area, tidal swamp, muck soil, flood plain forest and swamp were listed as habitats. Sizes ranged from 5-12 feet high. The fruits, even on 30- to 50-year-old herbarium specimens, retained the bloomy, rich-blue coloration. Fruit ripening occurred from July to October depending on location of collected specimens. Interestingly, I noted that some specimens collected in spring still held their colorful fruits.

After assessing the diversity of leaf types, fruits and infructescence sizes, I am primed to roam the Georgia Coastal Plain habitat and select for garden traits. The fact that *V. nudum* is wet-soil tolerant bodes well for producers and end users.

The variation in these two species provides incentive for selection and evaluation. Sixteen years ago, there were no named forms of *Itea virginica*, sweetspire. At present I know of at least six. Similar possibilities exist for *V. cassinoides* and *V. nudum*.