

# Blackhaw Viburnum



## *Viburnum prunifolium*

- **It provides 3 seasons of interest and is a high-value wildlife plant. The spring flowers are in large white cymes and the fall leaf color is in reds and purples. Berries mature to purplish-black and are eaten by both humans and birds. Viburnums set fruit better with more than one shrub for pollination.**
- **It is a host plant for Spring/Summer Azure butterflies. Its fruits are eaten by songbirds, squirrels and chipmunks. Its twig form provides shelter to wildlife.**
- **This plant has been used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans.**
- **Uses:** This is a great shrub for naturalized areas or can be used as a hedge or specimen. Blackhaw is drought or wet soil tolerant, does well in urban conditions and can be pruned to a tree form. Incorporate into the background of a native planting. Commonly occurs in moist woods, thickets and on streambanks so a good shrub/screen to use in wet areas.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers partial sun to partial shade and moist to dry well-drained soils. It will grow in deep shade but will rarely bloom. It is adaptable to various soil types and pH.
- **Growth:** Quickly growing to 12-15' tall and 6-12' wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-9; Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Ovate, finely toothed, glossy dark green leaves (to 4" long) turn attractive shades of red and purple in fall.
- **Flower:** Non-fragrant white flowers in flat-topped cymes (to 4.5" diameter) appear in spring. Flowers give way in autumn to blue-black, berry-like drupes which often persist into winter and are quite attractive to birds and wildlife. Fruits are edible and may be eaten off the bush when ripe or used in jams and preserves. Set fruit better with more than one shrub for pollination.