



***Viburnum trilobum* – Highbush Cranberry**

COMMON NAME: Highbush Cranberry, American Cranberrybush

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Viburnum trilobum* *Viburnum*, from Latin meaning “wayfaring tree” and *triloba* refers to the three-lobed leaf shape.

FLOWER: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late May to early June

SIZE: 8 to 12 feet tall and just as broad

BEHAVIOR: Moderate growth rate; tightly clustered stems, upright spreading or arching branches; dense foliage. Arched branches may root at tips.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Most common natural sites in Wisconsin are in alder thickets. Can be grown in a variety of soils, from wet to dry-mesic. Tolerant of some shade, but with reduced flowering and fruiting.

NATURAL RANGE: Newfoundland to British Columbia, south to New England, Pennsylvania, northern Ohio, Illinois, west to South Dakota, Wyoming and Washington. Occurs throughout Wisconsin but is not common.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Lace-like flowers occur in two types in each cluster. Large, showy, sterile “landing pads” for insects ring tiny fertile flowers. Forms clusters of glossy red berries that persist through winter. These are eaten sparingly by birds and small animals in fall, but devoured by waxwings and some other birds in late winter or spring. The fruit goes through a showy yellowish stage before ripening, is edible and can be made into tart preserves. Fall foliage color can be an excellent brick red.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water well until established. Protect from rabbits while small. Avoid planting in dry locations. Older plants will flower and fruit better with periodic renewal pruning.

COMPANION PLANTS: Red maple, red osier dogwood, speckled alder, skunk cabbage, and marsh marigold.