

NANNYBERRY (*Viburnum lentago*)

Easy to grow wide-spreading shrub providing year-round interest in the garden. Although Nannyberry prefers moist sites, once it is established it is reasonably drought and salt tolerant, making it a good choice for urban settings. Nannyberry ranges from southern Ontario and Quebec west to southern Manitoba and Minnesota and eastward to New England and New York state.



Photo Credits: Kevin Kavanagh (Left), Laura Beukeboom-Rodger (Right)



Plant Type:
 Large, woody perennial shrub, often with several stems. A good choice to use for hedging or screening. Nannyberry is hardy in USDA zones 2-8.



Light Conditions:
 Sunny to partly shaded locations. Naturally found in fields and open areas, riverbanks, wood edges and roadsides.



Soil and Moisture:
 Prefers loamy soils but is adaptable to heavier clay sites. Grows best on sites that are consistently moist.



Size/Height:
 Can reach up to 5 m (15 feet) in height and spread about 2-4 m (6-12 feet).



Flowers/Fruit:
 Showy white flowers in late spring and summer followed by burgundy leaves in autumn and blue berries hanging in clusters well into winter. Fruit are drupes and inside the drupes are flat seeds with a ridge in the middle.



Wildlife Benefits:
 Berries provide a food source for birds in winter such as Cardinals, Eastern Blue Birds, Robins, and Cedar Waxwings. Flowers provide food and nectar for the Red Admiral butterfly and the larvae of the Spring Azure butterfly will feed on foliage.



Cautions:
 Can get powdery mildew if air circulation is poor, but otherwise no serious pest or disease problems. Can gradually sucker over time and create a small colony. Suckers frequently at the base of the main stems.