

# SNOWBALL VIBURNUM

*Viburnum opulus* 'Roseum'



## Characteristics

- Type: Shrub
- Zone: 3 to 8
- Height: 10.00 to 12.00 feet
- Spread: 12.00 to 14.00 feet
- Bloom Time: May
- Bloom Description: White fading to pink
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium
- Maintenance: Low
- Suggested Use: Hedge
- Flower: Showy
- Leaf: Good Fall
- Attracts: Butterflies

## Culture

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Prefers loams with consistent moisture, but tolerates a wide range of soils. Species plants sometimes grow in wet or boggy soils in its native habitat. Prune as needed immediately after flowering. A popular feature shrub with rounded clusters of snowball-shaped flowers in spring, very showy, and good fall color, does not produce fruit; upright and spreading, will grow quite large; great as a solitary accent, flowers best in full sun. Snowball Viburnum will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

## Noteworthy Characteristics

*Viburnum opulus*, commonly called European cranberry bush, is a highbush cranberry that is native to Europe, Asia and N. Africa. It is a deciduous shrub with a rounded spreading habit that typically grows to 10-15' tall. It features lacecap-type white flowers in spring in flat-topped 3" wide cymes of tiny fertile florets surrounded by larger sterile florets, drooping clusters of cranberry-like red berries (drupes) in fall and three lobed, maple-like, dark green leaves. The berries (drupes) are technically edible, but are very bitter in taste and are not recommended for eating fresh off the shrub. Fruits tend to shrivel after frost. Foliage turns a sometimes attractive purplish red in fall.

'Roseum' is a sterile cultivar (no fertile florets and no cranberry-like fruit). Flowers bloom in May. Flowers acquire light rose flushing as they fade, hence the cultivar name of 'Roseum'.

## Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for aphids. Viburnum crown borer can cause stem dieback. Some susceptibility to bacterial leaf spot, stem blight and powdery mildew.

## Garden Uses

Shrub borders or foundations. Woodland margins. Hedge or screen.

*Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Society Plant Finder*