Viburnum, Common Snowball

Viburnum opulus 'Sterile'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: European Highbush Cranberry, Eastern Snowball

Description:

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, Can be grown as a tree or a shrub

Ornamental Features

Viburnum, Common Snowball features showy balls of white flowers at the ends of the branches from late spring to early summer. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The large serrated lobed leaves turn outstanding shades of purple and in the fall. The smooth gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Viburnum, Common Snowball is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.



Viburnum, Common Snowball in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Viburnum, Common Snowball flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Viburnum, Common Snowball is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Viburnum, Common Snowball flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Viburnum, Common Snowball will grow to be about 10 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.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (1): Clusters of small blooms making a round snowball flower. No Seeds. Clean up is blowing or raking debris onto lawn and mow or bag.