

***Viburnum lentago* L.**  
Nannyberry, Blackhaw  
**Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family)**  
USDA Symbol: **VILE**  
USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.



A tall viburnum, occasionally growing as a small tree, 20-25 ft. tall. Slender, erect-arching branches, somewhat open at maturity, often suckering. Attractive white flower clusters, dense dark-green summer foliage, wine-red fall color, blue-black berries which persist through winter. Shrub or small tree with short trunk, compact, rounded crown of drooping branches, small white flowers in clusters, and small bluish-black fruit.

When cut, the plants sprout from roots, and old branches will often arch down and take root. Songbirds, gamebirds, and mammals eat the fruit in winter.

## PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

**Duration:** Perennial  
**Habit:** Shrub  
**Leaf:** Green  
**Autumn Foliage:** yes  
**Flower:**  
**Fruit:** Black, Blue  
**Size Class:** 12-36 ft.

## BLOOM INFORMATION

**Bloom Color:** White  
**Bloom Time:** May

## DISTRIBUTION

**USA:** CO , CT , DE , GA , IA , IL , IN , MA , MD , ME , MI , MN , MO , MT , ND , NE , NH , NJ , NY , OH , PA , RI , SD , VA , VT , WI , WV , WY  
**Canada:** MB , NB , ON , QC , SK  
**Native Distribution:** Que. to Man. & MT, s. to VA & n.e. MO, e. NE & WY  
**Native Habitat:** Rich, open woods; hillsides; stream banks  
**USDA Native Status:** L48(N), CAN(N)

## GROWING CONDITIONS

**Water Use:** Medium  
**Light Requirement:** Sun , Part Shade , Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Moist  
**Soil pH:** Circumneutral (pH 6.8-7.2)  
**CaCO3 Tolerance:** Low  
**Soil Description:** Moist to dry soils.  
**Conditions Comments:** Adaptable to a wide range of conditions. Sometimes develops mildew in shady areas.

## BENEFIT

**Use Wildlife:** Squirrels, Birds.  
**Conspicuous Flowers:** yes  
**Fragrant Flowers:** yes  
**Attracts:** Birds , Butterflies  
**Larval Host:** Spring Azure

## BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS OF NORTH AMERICA (BAMONA)

*Viburnum lentago* is a larval host and/or nectar source for:

Spring Azure  
(*Celastrina "ladon"*)



Larval Host  
[Learn more at BAMONA](#)

## PROPAGATION

**Seed Collection:** Collect the fruit as soon as it has turned a dark blue-black color. Store seeds with pulp on at 41 degrees.

**Seed Treatment:** If seeds must be stored, they will need a period of stratification.

**Commercially Avail:** yes

**SOURCE:** [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=VILE](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=VILE)