Early Blue Viburnum

Viburnum bracteatum 'Early Blue'



Early Blue Viburnum flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Bracted Viburnum

Description:

A compact garden shrub covered in showy flat-topped clusters of creamy white flowers in late spring followed by striking blue-black berries; thick glossy leaves provide excellent scorch resistance in full sun, ideal for the landscape or as a natural hedge



Early Blue Viburnum in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Early Blue Viburnum is blanketed in stunning creamy white flat-top flowers with dark green bracts at the ends of the branches in late spring. The blue fruits which fade to black over time are held in abundance in spectacular clusters from mid summer to late fall. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The glossy pointy leaves turn outstanding shades of yellow and in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Early Blue Viburnum 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 is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Early Blue Viburnum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Early Blue Viburnum 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. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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 selection of a native North American species.