



LINDEN VIBURNUM

Linden viburnum, *Viburnum dilatatum*, is native to eastern Asia and was introduced as an ornamental landscape plant. The deciduous shrub has begun to escape into woodlands in the Piedmont region of Delaware, creating dense thickets which replace and suppress native species. Linden viburnum is not widespread in the mid-Atlantic region yet and is locally invasive. Like many other invasive plant species, it leafs out early in the spring, and holds onto its leaves later in the fall, giving the non-native viburnum a competitive advantage.

Linden viburnum is a multi-stemmed shrub, generally growing up to ten feet tall and spreading just as wide. Its dark green leaves are often hairy on both sides, oppositely arranged, and coarsely toothed. The stems of Linden viburnum are brown to brown-gray with prominent orange lenticels. Buds are slightly hairy and brown with a reddish tinge in the scales. Be mindful in control because Linden viburnum plants can reproduce by layering— vegetative propagation of a plant by branches touching the ground, forming roots and eventually, a new plant (clone).

Native Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*, is one species commonly confused with invasive Linden viburnum. The native's leaves are smooth on the upper surface with some hairs underneath, while the hairs on both sides of the invasive can give the Linden viburnum leaves a sandpaper-like feel. The creamy white flower clusters in the late spring are similar with both species, but the fruits will differ.

Linden viburnum flowers give way to bright red drupes, while the native viburnums have dark blue to black drupes.



Photo Credit: Hamachidori, North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox

QUICK FACTS

- Ornamental landscape plant that escaped into natural areas
- Leaves emerge early in spring and drop later in the fall than surrounding native species
- Leaves are hairy on both sides
- Prominent orange lenticels on stems
- Fruits are red, while native viburnums in Delaware bear dark blue to black fruit

