



Monji Plant Profile

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Japanese Viburnum

Viburnum japonicum

03-96



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 5-10, 12, 14-24	Full sun, partial shade in hottest climates	Soil tolerant	Regular watering	Fragrant flower in 4" clusters, red fruit is very sparse, but attractive	10 to 15 feet tall

Viburnum is a large genus, with over 150 species of deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees, the majority originating in China. Many are grown for their fragrant flowers, but the evergreens are grown primarily for their beautiful foliage and berries. The largest evergreen viburnum in the garden is *Viburnum rhytidophyllum*, the leatherleaf viburnum, a species known for its vigorous upright growth and drooping, dark green, crinkly leaves to nearly 30 cm long. This viburnum is often more attractive at some distance, as at close range, it easily overwhelms the viewer with its crowded, multiple stems (to six or seven meters tall) and coarse texture. Early in the year, masses of tiny, creamy white flowers are borne in terminal, flat-topped corymbs. These are followed by small red berries, which soon turn black. Leatherleaf viburnum works extremely well with other large evergreens, such as big leaf rhododendrons, and can be seen in this complimentary association in places along the southern edge of the Asian Garden.