

Viburnum lantanoides

Caprifoliaceae family

Hobblebush, American wayfaring tree, tangle-legs, witch hobble, moosewood

[Description](#)

[Distribution in US](#)

[Images](#)

[Timing of growth](#)

[Phenophases to be monitored for NPN](#)

[Did you know](#)

[Bibliography](#)

[Notes](#)

Description: *Viburnum lantanoides* is a sprawling, deciduous shrub, main stems ascending or erect. Lower and pendulous branches fall over and often root when in contact with the soil surface. Basal sprouting also occurs in this species. Flowers are insect pollinated, and hummingbird visits have been observed. *Need definitive info on bud burst timing versus flowering. *Need info on number of years until maturity/flowering.

Variation: *Need info.

Size: Grows to 3-12 ft. (1-3.7 m) tall, and spreading; often with pendulous branching.

Leaves: Leaves opposite with 2 per node, simple, pinnately veined, petiolate. Leaf blades/lamina broadly ovate to widely ovate, 2-10 in. (5-25.4 cm) long, 1.6-6 in. (4-15 cm) wide, apex short-acuminate to acuminate, base rounded to cordate (heart-shaped), margin serrate; pubescent when young, smoother in maturity, hairs stellate (star-like), brown to light brown, sparse to dense; upper surface green to dark green, dull, coarse textured, veins sunken; lower surface lighter green, prominently veined; petiole 0.4-2.4 in. (1-6 cm) long, with sparse to moderately dense 2-5 -armed fasciculate-stellate hairs.

Inflorescence: Umbelliform cyme, terminal on end of twig, densely stellate, inflorescence sessile, bracts sessile. Bracteoles 0-1, at base or apex of pedicel. Showy, large clusters, 3-6 in. (7.6-15 cm) in diameter, white to pink, flat-topped; flowers on margin/perimeter of cluster with much larger petals, approximately 1 in. (2.5 cm) in diameter.

Flowers: Flowers on margin/perimeter of cluster much larger, approximately 1 in. (2.5 cm) in diameter, sterile; calyx fused, tubular, glabrous, sepal lobes 5, triangular, stellate, persistent; corolla fused with 5 petals/lobes, white to light yellow to pink, petals/lobes 0.3-0.6 in. (0.7-1.5 cm) long. Inner cyme flowers much smaller, fertile; calyx fused, tubular, glabrous, sepal lobes 5, triangular, stellate, persistent; corolla fused with 5 petals/lobes, white to light yellow, lobes 0.08-0.1 in. (2-2.5 mm) long; stamens 5; pistil 1, carpels 1 (with 3 locules, only 1 fertile), style 1, stigma 1 with 3 lobes.

Fruit: Drupe, berry-like, ovoid to ellipsoid, 0.3-0.4 in. (0.8-1 cm) long, 0.2-0.3 in. (0.6-0.8 cm) wide, from pale green (immature) to later red turning purplish-black in maturity, with persistent calyx. Seeds 1; yellowish-orange, lenticular, 0.3 in. (0.7 cm) long, 0.2 in. (0.6 cm) wide, pusticulate, with grooves.

Bark: Initially gray-brown to purplish-brown, warty; later splitting into shallow ridges and furrows. Twigs slender to moderately stout, brownish green to dark brown with light lenticels; glabrous or with 2-5 -armed fasciculate-stellate hairs, brown or light brown, sparse or moderately dense or dense;

Habitat: *Viburnum lantanoides* is found in bottomlands and shaded ravines, thickets, and cool, mesic to moist woods; prefers well-drained soils. This species is shade tolerant.

Species distribution in US states: CT, GA, MA, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, TN, VA, VT, WV

Species images:

Whole plant:

<http://www.ct-botanical-society.org/galleries/viburnumlant.html>

<http://www.newenglandwild.org/images/plantcatalog/viburnum-lantanoides-2.jpg/view?searchterm=None>

Bark:

older:

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11br26511.JPG>

Leaf:

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11lf26502.JPG>

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11lfseveral15050.JPG>

http://msuplants.com/images/Viburnum/Viburalni_LF01_Jun1.jpg

lower surface, and upper surface margins:

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11fmargin-uplow26510.JPG>

Colored leaves:

http://msuplants.com/images/Viburnum/Viburalni_AF01_Oct20.jpg

http://msuplants.com/images/Viburnum/Viburalni_SA03_Oct30.jpg

http://msuplants.com/images/Viburnum/Viburalni_SA01_Oct30.jpg

Buds:

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11tw26508.JPG>

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11tw26308.JPG>

winter twig:

<http://ontariotrees.com/main/species.php?id=2047>
http://msuplants.com/images/Viburnum/Viburalni_HT01_Nov19.jpg

Flowers:

<http://www.delawarewildflowers.org/3006.html>
http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?query_src=photos_index&enlarge=0000+0000+0105+1076
http://msuplants.com/images/Viburnum/Viburalni_OF02_Apr25.jpg
<http://ace.acadiau.ca/science/biol/Evans/Biology%203293/Viburnum%20alnifolium.htm>

Fruit:

immature:

<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/biohires/v/hvila11frdevel26325.JPG>

mature:

http://departments.bloomu.edu/biology/Ricketts/Viburnum/V_alni/v_alni.html
http://www.plantsystematics.org/imgs/robbin/r/Adoxaceae_Viburnum_lantanoides_16333.html

seed and dried fruit:

http://plants.usda.gov/java/largeImage?imageID=vila11_001_ahp.tif

Expected timing of growth stages:

Germination: Spring.

Flowering: April-June, depending on location.

Bud break/Leaf out: *Need info. Mid-May (White Mountains, New Hampshire).

Leaf/canopy development: *Need info. Early May to mid-June (Late May 30% expansion, White Mountains, New Hampshire).

Fruit ripening: August-September.

Seed dispersion: August-October, depending on location.

Phenophases to be monitored for NPN:

Leaf out

- *First leaf*
In at least 3 locations on the plant, the very first green tip of a young leaf has visibly moved out of the leaf bud.

Flowering

- *First flower*
In at least 3 locations on the plant, a flower has opened completely. Flowers are considered 'opened' when the reproductive parts are visible between unfolded or opened flower parts. For *Viburnum lantanoides*, ignore the large, sterile flowers on the perimeter of the flower cluster, and watch for the opening of the smaller, fertile flowers in the center.
- *Full flower [Intensive only]*
The plant has reached its peak floral display. This occurs when half (50%) of the flowers on the whole plant have opened completely.
- *Last flower*
The last visible flower has opened completely and is still fresh.

Leaf elongation

Note: These measures can be difficult to estimate without a few seasons of practice.

- *25% leaf elongation [Intensive only]*
The majority of young leaves have unfolded completely and have expanded to one-quarter (25%) of their mature size. Leaf elongation may also be estimated by viewing the canopy as a whole. At 25% leaf elongation, the canopy appears to be approximately one-quarter (25%) full.
- *50% leaf elongation [Intensive only]*
The majority of young leaves have unfolded completely and have expanded to half (50%) of their mature size. Leaf elongation may also be estimated by viewing the canopy as a whole. At 50% leaf elongation, the canopy appears to be approximately half (50%) full.
- *75% leaf elongation*
The majority of young leaves have unfolded completely and have expanded to three-quarters (75%) of their mature size. Leaf elongation may also be estimated by viewing the canopy as a whole. At 75% leaf elongation, the canopy appears to be approximately three-quarters (75%) full.
- *Full leaf elongation [Intensive only]*
The majority of young leaves have unfolded completely and have expanded to 95-100% of their mature size. At full leaf elongation, the canopy appears to have reached its full density.

Fruit ripening

- *First fruit ripe*
In at least 3 locations on the plant, a fruit has become ripe. In *Viburnum lantanoides*, a berry is considered ripe when it is purple-black in color or when it has been eaten by wildlife.
- *50% of fruit ripe [Intensive only]*
For the whole plant, half (50%) of the fruits are ripe.
- *All fruit ripe [Intensive only]*
For the whole plant, virtually all (95-100%) of the fruits are ripe.

Leaf color change

Note: If drought seems to be the cause of leaf color change for a plant, please make a comment about it for that plant.

- *First leaf colored [Intensive only]*
In at least 3 locations on the plant, the green leaves have begun to change to their late season colors.
- *25% of leaves colored [Intensive only]*
For the whole plant, one-quarter (25%) of the leaves (including any that have fallen to the ground) have changed to their late season colors.
- *50% of leaves colored*
For the whole plant, half (50%) of the leaves (including any that have fallen to the ground) have changed to their late season colors.
- *75% of leaves colored [Intensive only]*
For the whole plant, three-quarters (75%) of the leaves (including any that have fallen to the ground) have changed to their late season colors.
- *All leaves colored*
For the whole plant, virtually all (95-100%) of the leaves (including any that have fallen to the ground) have changed to their late season colors and there is virtually no green left in the leaves.

Leaf fall

Note: If drought seems to be the cause of leaf fall for a plant, please make a comment about it for that plant.

- *First leaf fallen* [**Intensive only**]
In at least 3 locations on the plant, a leaf easily falls off into your hand when touched or gently handled. First leaf fallen may also be indicated by the presence of at least 3 leaves on the ground below the plant (that are not apparently from another individual nearby).
- *25% of leaves fallen* [**Intensive only**]
For the whole plant, one-quarter (25%) of the leaves have fallen.
- *50% of leaves fallen*
For the whole plant, half (50%) of the leaves have fallen.
- *75% of leaves fallen* [**Intensive only**]
For the whole plant, three-quarters (75%) of the leaves have fallen.
- *All leaves fallen*
For the whole plant, virtually all (95-100%) of the leaves have fallen.

Did you know? *Viburnum lantanoides* is used medicinally, and its fruits are edible, reportedly tasting better following a frost. Its fruits are also a preferred food of ruffed grouse, brown thrashers, cedar waxwings, squirrels, and chipmunks.

Bibliography:

Bonner, F.T., J.D. Gill, and F.L. Pogge. *Viburnum* L., In Woody Seed Plant Manual. U.S. Forest Service; accessed 4/17/08: <http://www.nsl.fs.fed.us/wpsm/Viburnum.pdf>

Brooklyn Botanic Garden: Bitner, R.L. 2002. Viburnums—A Selection of Versatile and Underused Natives. *Plants and Gardens News* (17)4; accessed 4/17/08: http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/plants/2002wi_viburnums.html

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York Metropolitan Flora Project; accessed 4/17/08: http://nymf.bbg.org/profile_species_tech.asp?id=722

Canny, D.S., M.P. Ayres, and J.H. Ruel. 2002. Strategies of carbon acquisition by the understory shrub *Viburnum alnifolium* (Caprifoliaceae) ; accessed 4/17/08: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~mpayres/pubs/Hobble.pdf>

Colby-Sawyer College, Virtual Herbarium; accessed 4/17/08: <http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/herbarium/angiosperms/valnifolium.html>

Cornell University, Viburnum Leaf Beetle Citizen Science; accessed 4/17/08: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/VLB/key/Vlantes.htm>

Donoghue, M. 1980. Flowering times in *Viburnum*. *Arnoldia* (40)1:2-22; accessed 4/17/08: <http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1094.pdf>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas at Austin, Native Plant Database; accessed 4/17/08:
http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=VILA11

North Carolina State University, Cooperative Extension; accessed 4/17/08:
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/native/viburnum_alnifolium.html

Northern Ontario Plant Database; accessed 4/17/08:
<http://www.northernontarioflora.ca/description.cfm?speciesid=1003989>

Ontario Trees and Shrubs; accessed 4/17/08:
<http://ontariotrees.com/main/species.php?id=2047>

Plants for a Future; accessed 4/17/08: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Viburnum+lantanoides

USDA Plants Database; accessed 4/16/08: <http://plants.usda.gov/>

Virginia Tech, Department of Forestry, College of Natural Resources; accessed 4/16/08:
<http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=442>

Notes

The USDA PLANTS symbol for this plant is VILA11.
The ITIS Taxonomic Serial No. for this species is 35265.

BBCH codes for phenophases used for this plant are available from the USA-NPN office upon request.

Proposed modifications, updates or corrections to this protocol are welcome; please direct correspondence to the USA-NPN National Coordinating Office.

Prior versions of this species protocol will be made available in a documents library on USA-NPN webpage.

Document history: V1.0 (beta) 08/19/08

Protocol compiler: Patty Guertin, Lisa Benton

Reviewers: Ellen Denny

USA National Phenology Network

USA-NPN Plant Phenology Protocol, *Viburnum_lantanoides_v1.0(beta).doc*

National Coordinating Office
1955 East 6th Street
Tucson, AZ 85719
www.usanpn.org