



Guelder Rose

Viburnum opulus L.

Common Names:

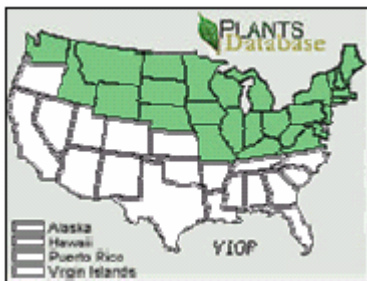
Guelder rose; cranberrybush viburnum, American cranberry, European cranberry, cramp bark, snowball tree, red elder, rose elder

Native Origin:

It is native to the woodlands of the European deciduous forest, north Asia and north Africa.



Description: A deciduous shrub in the honey-suckle family (Caprifoliaceae) growing to a height of 7-12 feet. The maple-like leaves are 3.5 inches" long, palmate lobed with edges coarsely serrated. Leaves turn bright red or rich purple before falling. The flower is snowy white with flat heads in 3 to 5 inches clusters. The flower is wheel shaped and the outer flowers have five petals and are sterile. The inner flowers are fertile and very small. The flowers develop red berries ½ inch in diameter. Bright red berries ripen in August attracting birds that spread the seeds. Some species are sterile and don't have berries.



Habitat: It is found at the edges of woods, hedgerows and marshes. In the United States it is found in agricultural zones 3 to 8, which is a relatively cool climate. It grows in both heavy clay and acidic soil.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in IN, PA, and WI.

Ecological Impacts: It is an invasive shrub and will take over another plant's area and is able to spread out for more sunlight.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** prune or sheer
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.forestimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, www.blueplanetbiomes.org/guelder_rose.htm