



# Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry

*Viburnum opulus* L. var.  
*americanum* Aiton



*Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry*

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry was released in 1999 as a selected-class ecotype for the Great Lakes region by USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) along with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

## Description

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry is a tall, native shrub that grows to 13 feet in height. Although taller than it is wide, Leelanau Germplasm has multiple stems and a rounded growth form. Maple-like leaves are paired and deeply 3-lobed. Flowers bloom in May forming flat, white clusters with wider (0.5–0.9 inch) sterile flowers about the perimeter. The ripe fruit resembles a true cranberry and hangs on branches all winter. It is similar to the Eurasian variety *opulus*.

## Source

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry originated from a native stand in Leelanau County, Michigan. Seeds collected from the stand were used to produce a production block at Rose Lake PMC.

## Conservation Uses

Leelanau Germplasm is intended for use as a windbreak on organic or wet soils and has some value for wildlife. Michigan NRCS technical specialists have determined that Leelanau Germplasm is useful or potentially useful with these Conservation Practice Standards:

Early Successional Habitat  
Development/Management (647)  
Field Border (386)  
Hedgerow Planting (422)  
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)  
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)  
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)  
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)  
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)  
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)  
Wetland Enhancement (659)  
Wetland Restoration (657)  
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)  
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)  
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650)

## Area of Adaptation and Use

Highbush cranberry is found throughout northern North America. The area of use for Leelanau Germplasm is the Great Lakes region, well within the species' range. It is best adapted to moist or organic soils, performing poorly on dry sites. Leelanau Germplasm is a selection from naturally occurring germplasm. It does not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive based on the guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

## Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Leelanau Germplasm can be successfully established using 1-0 (i.e., 1 year in original nursery, 0 years in transplant bed) or 2-0 container-grown stock and following normal planting procedures. It is best planted in early spring or late fall when dormant. However, fall planting is discouraged in heavy or organic soils where frost heave may be a problem. The minimum plant-to-plant spacing for the windbreaks is 3 to 6 feet, and 12 feet between rows. In wildlife plantings, the spacing should be further apart.



*Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry with Fruit*

### **Ecological Considerations**

Competing vegetation should be controlled. Mulch or geotextile materials must allow for water infiltration and air movement. Organic mulches should be kept at least 6 inches away from the stem to discourage rodent feeding. Irrigation may be required during establishment under conditions of high drought stress. No major disease or pest problems have been observed. Once established, minimal maintenance will be required.

### **Seed and Plant Production**

Highbush cranberry can be propagated by seed or vegetatively. Seed planted in the spring of 'Year 1' will germinate and emerge in the spring of 'Year 2'. Seedlings can be lifted from seed propagation beds and transplanted using conventional methods. Vegetative propagation is done using softwood cuttings.

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry produces seed annually. Seed should be harvested in the fall when berries are bright red and are soft to the touch. Seeds should be separated from the berry pulp and dried before storage.



*Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry in Bloom*



*Close-up of Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry in Bloom*

### **Availability**

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry, as well as other Rose Lake PMC releases, is available from commercial suppliers. Rose Lake PMC does not sell releases to the general public, although small quantities of seed or nursery stock are available to commercial seed or nursery growers for increase purposes.

*For more information, contact:*  
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### **Citation**

Release Brochure for Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*). USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake PMC, East Lansing, MI 48823. Published October 1999, Revised April 2014.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

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