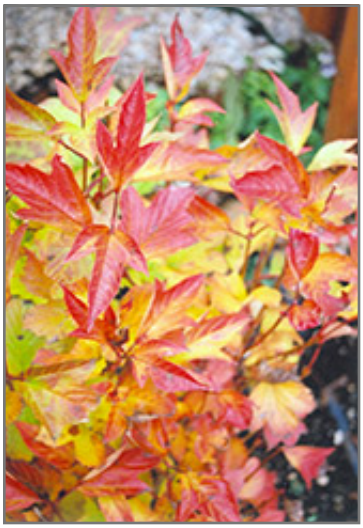
Compact Highbush Cranberry

Viburnum trilobum 'Compactum'



Compact Highbush Cranberry in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: American Cranberrybush

Description:

A popular garden detail shrub, with showy clusters of pure white pinwheel flowers in spring, brilliant red fruit and good fall color, golden stems; denser and more compact than the species, hardy and adaptable, makes a great natural low hedge

Ornamental Features

Compact Highbush Cranberry features showy white lacecap flowers held atop the branches in late spring. It features an abundance of magnificent scarlet berries from late summer to late winter. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The serrated lobed leaves turn an outstanding yellow in the fall. The smooth gray bark and gold branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

This plant is primarily grown as an ornamental, but it's also valued for its edible qualities. The small round sour berries are most often used in the following ways:

- Preserves

Landscape Attributes

Compact Highbush Cranberry is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.



Compact Highbush Cranberry in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Compact Highbush Cranberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Compact Highbush Cranberry will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species.