

“Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners” Viburnum Blue Muffin by Cecilia Bernuy

Viburnum dentatum ‘Blue Muffin’

Common Name: Viburnum

Family: Adoxaceae

I love all native plants because of their benefit to wildlife but this is my favorite native shrub. This upright, rounded, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub has tiny white flowers in flat-topped corymbs in the spring that attract butterflies and other pollinators. It is the larval host for the beautiful Spring Azure butterfly. The flowers give way to black-blue berry drupes which are attractive to birds including the Eastern bluebird, Northern flicker, Gray catbird and American robin. The Viburnum leaves are toothed and glossy dark green in the spring and summer. Then they change color to impressive shades of yellow-orange and red. The Blue Muffin variety (original cultivar name ‘Christom’) that I have in my garden is compact that typically matures to 3-5’ tall. The original variety is just as attractive but it grows taller to 10 and even 15 feet in optimal conditions. The pictures are from my garden as they are starting to bloom. They look even more impressive when they are in full bloom.



Growing conditions: Easily grown in full sun to full shade in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils. It prefers moist loams, but tolerates clay soil, black walnut soil as well as drought and floods. It is also insect and disease tolerant.



Type: Deciduous shrub

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 3.00 to 5.00 feet

Spread: 3.00 to 4.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Photos by Cecilia Bernuy

Resources:

Missouri Botanical Garden / Plant Finder

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