



And, the Winner Is...Viburnum

“ Welcome back to the final round of *Name That Shrub*. Going into this round, our contestants are tied with three correct answers each.

“ Contestant number one, here is your final question. It stands around 6 foot tall, likes well-drained soil with even moisture, tolerates sun to part shade, has pink buds that open to white snowball flowers and lovely burgundy fall color.”

“Troy, I believe that would be *Viburnum carlesii* or *Koreanspice Viburnum*. ”

“You are absolutely correct. We also would have accepted *Viburnum juddii*. The Judd *Viburnum* is very similar but with a slightly more open habit and superior disease resistance.

“Contestant number two, your question: This is an adaptable plant for sun to part shade. Creamy white, flat-topped flowers appear in May. Dark-green leathery foliage often remains on this plant into November. Brilliant red fruit matures to dark purple. It...”

“*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* ‘ Allegheny ’ . ”

“ Boy, that's a mouthful—but no hesitation on your part. You are correct. This *Viburnum* has a rounded habit and can reach 10' x 10'. Interestingly, a few leaves may even hold on until spring.

“ Now, contestant number three: This plant is covered with 2 to 3 inch diameter showy white flowers in April to May. Its leaves are maple-like in appearance. Best in full sun. One common name for this plant is *Snowball Bush*.”

“Uh, Troy. I know this. Give me a minute. I believe that's *Viburnum opulus* ‘ Roseum ’ . ”

“ Correct! This old favorite can reach 10 to 12 feet tall and has a rounded habit. Unfortunately, it can be plagued by aphids, so watch out.

“ Well folks, we ’re still in a tie. But our time has run out. I'm Troy Arrowwood, for *Name That Shrub*. Remember; you're always a winner with *Viburnums*. ”

Our contestants did quite well to come up with the correct answers from this genus of over a hundred species and many cultivars. *Viburnums* can range in size from 3 to 30 feet. Some are fragrant. There are also variations in the color of berries, but flower color is

usually white, with an occasional pink.

A fragrant variety not mentioned by contestant number one or Troy is *Viburnum x burkwoodii*. That “x” in the name is never pronounced it is simply there to indicate the plant is a cross between two or more varieties. Round-topped clusters of pink buds open to white flowers in early spring. *Burkwood* is taller than *Judd* or *Koreanspice Viburnum*, growing to eight to 10 feet with a slightly narrower spread. The dark green foliage is glossy and holds its color late. ‘*Mohawk*’, a variety of *Burkwood*, is more compact at 7 x 7 foot. Its disease resistant foliage also has good orange-red fall color.



*Viburnum* ‘ Blue Muffin ’ is another winning *Viburnum*.

A popular variety in our area is shrub boasts shiny smooth groups or with other similar Viburnum dentatum 'Chicago foliage that turns an attractive red cultivars. Lustre'. It is a type of to bronze color in the fall. The Arrowwood Viburnum with a fruit is striking, starting out pink Missing from this article are, rounded habit, topping off at and maturing to blue-black. This undoubtedly, your favorite about 10 feet. Fall color is an adaptable plant tolerates most viburnums. I'm also sure I failed inconsistent reddish-purple. The soils, will grow in sun to shade, to mention your favorite straight species, Viburnum and even handles dry soils. characteristic of your favorite dentatum, grows six to 8 feet with Warning! Dry soil does not equal viburnum. Pick any one and there a similar or wider spread. Fall "I can plant that shrub and is sure to be a place for it in your color ranges from red to reddish- never water it." garden. Remember, as Troy Arrowwood said, "you're always a purple to yellow. Both varieties Contest number three 's shrub winner with Viburnum." have creamy white (surprise) Contest number three 's shrub flat-topped flowers in May to early had maple-like leaves. Another June and develop bluish to blue- viburnum with similar foliage is black fruit. A newer variety is the Viburnum trilobum, known as more compact 'Blue Muffin'. It American Cranberrybush. Before grows to a height of about five to you ask, no, it's not that kind of 6 feet and produces an cranberry. Several cultivars abundance of flowers and fruit exist, but one of the newer ones even at a young age. is 'Redwing'. Spring foliage on this rounded eight-foot Viburnum With a mature height of 12 to 15 is reddish. Large flat-topped feet, Viburnum prunifolium is one white flowers appear in May of the taller varieties and can be followed by bright red berries in trained either as a large shrub or the fall. Many viburnums, small tree. Known commonly as including this species, will have Blackhaw Viburnum, this rounded better fruit production if planted in



Many Viburnum varieties have nice fall color.