

Nannyberry

Viburnum lentago

Also known as sweet viburnum, sheepberry, or wild raisin, nannyberry is an adaptable fruiting bush or small tree. It can be pruned into a small tree but naturally grows into a multi-stemmed, “leggy” shrub. It produces small, cream-colored flowers that attract pollinators, and develop into blue-black berries. Many bird species (and people) eat the fruits. Nannyberries can be planted as part of a windbreak or hedge, and are common landscape plants.

Height: 8’ - 25’

Grows between 1’ and 2’ per year.

Planting environment:

Soil: Adaptable; loam and clay-loam, but can tolerate sandy or rocky soil

Moisture: Dry to wet soils; tolerates occasional flooding

Sunlight: Full sun to part shade (>4 hours per day)

Lifespan: 40 years, on average

Maintenance:

Nannyberry can be pruned into a small tree, which can weaken the plant and reduce its lifespan. Remove root shoots if you want to control its spread. If pruning, do so immediately after flowering.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Viburnum crown borer
2. Powdery mildew, if planted in areas with poor circulation

