

POSSUMHAW

Viburnum nudum

Showy white flowers will attract butterflies, and reddish stem make for lovely fall colors. Easily grown in most gardens. Also called smooth withered.



Description: A deciduous shrub or small tree with slender reddish-brown stem, waxy green leaf and smooth gray brown bark. Leaves up to 5 inches long, varying from elliptic to acute to rounded tops. Produces small creamy white flowers or occasionally pink flowers with bitter berries that change from green to black as they ripen in the fall.

Natural Habitat: Common from Long Island to Florida. In N.C., thrives in moist and open woods, wooded swamps, wet pinelands, bogs and stream banks.

Conservation Status: Abundant throughout its range.

Size: 8' to 20'

Growth Rate: Slow

Light: Partial sun to full shade

Planting and Care: Easily grown in average, medium wet, well-drained soil. Prefers moist loams, but tolerates a wide range of soils including boggy ones. Prune lightly, only as needed, in fall. Pruning after flowering may be done, but will eliminate some of the late summer fruit display. For best cross-pollination and subsequent fruit display, plant shrubs in groups rather than as single specimens.

Ornamental Value: Handsome dense shrub, compact and rounded, with showy, fragrant flowers. Reddish stem color in fall, white bloom in spring

Landscape Usage: Mass planting for shrub borders, foundations, hedges or roadside plantings. Good selection for low spots and edges of water gardens, streams or ponds.

Wildlife Benefits: Attracts butterflies. Birds and mammals eat the berries.