Native Plant of the Month

**Highbush Cranberry**

*Viburnum edule*

- While not a cranberry, the tart berries are carried high on the bush, so its common name is at least partly correct.
- The berries on this *Viburnum* plant are indeed edible (though not delicious) as described by its scientific name (edible= edule).
- These are favored berries for cedar waxwings, robins, pileated woodpeckers, black bears, and squirrels. As thickets, these shrubs provide cover and forage for other birds and animals.
- Bentwood boxes filled with highbush cranberries stored in oil or water were highly valued gifts or trade items by native people.

**Landscape Value**

*Viburnums* are highly regarded landscape plants, and this species is no exception. The rounded, tall shrub form, attractive foliage, clusters of flowers in spring, and brightly colored clusters of fruits, along with fall color, make this a prime addition to the native landscape.

This species prefers a shady, moist location in the company of trees such as paper birch, trembling aspen, black cottonwood, Pacific crabapple, and red alder. Plant with other native shrubs such as twinberry, red osier dogwood, snowberry, Nootka rose, and willows. This plant roots well from hardwood cuttings.

Text by Heidi Bohan

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