



Koreanspice Viburnum

We have grown *Viburnum carlesi* or Koreanspice Bush for years and I finally planted one this past year in my home garden, not by choice but by following my wife's instructions! And as usual, Kathy was right; this plant was the star of our garden last spring. I cannot believe I was dismissing this old favorite and can tell you this, we will be adding more to our landscape wherever we can.

Carlesi Viburnum offers so much during the spring, summer and fall. Hardy to zone 4, Koreanspice grows to about 8' tall and 8' wide if allowed to, however it is very easily maintained within 4' x 4' with pruning once a year. I plan to keep mine about this size, I will prune this plant semi aggressively after it blooms but never any later than mid July or so to make sure we get full bloom the following spring. This is a simple prune, cut at will to the size you prefer. I choose to prune selectively to maintain a more natural shape and to avoid a manicured look.

Carlesi has a rounded habit and is basically trouble-free in most years and very drought tolerant. This plant can also withstand poorer soils and locations, a great choice for a troubled spot in your garden. If you have the option, Carlesi prefers well-drained soil and afternoon sun. It's a slow grower and behaves very well.

Also known as Fragrant Viburnum, Koreanspice flowers generously in late April to mid-May attracting butterflies. These blossoms are VERY fragrant and can be enjoyed 20' to 30' away. Flowers are three inch domed clusters that are white to pink flushed and are present for four weeks or longer. Listen carefully, this fragrance is beautiful, real, loud and enjoyable.....you have to have this plant in your landscape, preferably in a high traffic area, near a patio or window so you can enjoy to the fullest.

Following the flowering period, I enjoy the attractive foliage through the summer and the red to black fruit set is enjoyed by birds. As the fall season approaches the leaves turn to purple-red for what seems to be the entire fall season. I can tell you that even with the powerful fragrance, I enjoy the fall color even more so.

Spring - fragrance and color; summer - attractive foliage and care free, drought tolerant; fall - a long lasting show of color. Little pruning and a slow grower for any location that attracts birds and butterflies. Sounds like a miracle plant! To me all plants are miracles but this one is an easy one to enjoy.

- Don Eaton
Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team