

# *Viburnum f. plicatum f. tomentosum*



## Plant of Merit

Common Names: doublefile viburnum, Japanese Snowball, Summer Snowflake

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Adoxaceae

Native Range: China, Japan

Zone: 5 to 8

Height: 8.00 to 15.00 feet

Spread: 10.00 to 18.00 feet

Bloom Time: April to May

Bloom Description: Snow-white

Sun: FULL SUN to PART SHADE

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good Fall

Attracts: Birds, Butterflies

Tolerate: Drought, Deer

**Culture** Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in FULL SUN to PART SHADE. Prefers moist loams, but tolerates a wide range of soils. Best with consistent moisture.

**Noteworthy Characteristics** *Viburnums* are dense, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrubs that typically mature to 8-15' tall with a slightly larger spread. Ovate, toothed, strongly-veined, dark green leaves (to 4" long) have pleated upper surfaces. Leaves turn burgundy red to purplish red in fall. Two different forms of this shrub are commonly sold in commerce under a number of names:

(1) **Japanese snowball bush** (*f. plicatum*) which is the type form featuring sterile, orbicular inflorescences (2-3" diameter cymes) of non-fragrant, showy white flowers along the branches in spring with no subsequent fruit.

(2) doublefile viburnum (*f. tomentosum*) which is the wild-related taxon featuring fertile, flat-topped flower clusters (2-4" diameter cymes) which bloom along tiered horizontal branches in doublefile form, each cluster containing an outer ring of large showy sterile florets surrounding a center mass of tiny non-showy fertile florets which when fertilized give way to egg-shaped fruits and viable seed.

**'Summer Snowflake'** is an UPRIGHT cultivar that matures to 5-8' tall and 3-5' wide. Leaves, flowers and fruits are typically smaller than those found on typical *f. tomentosum* plants. White lacecap-like flowers bloom in spring (late April-May), but continue to bloom sporadically through summer (hence the cultivar name) and sometimes into early fall.

Source: <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder>