Viburnum

'Eskimo'

The U.S. National Arboretum introduction, Viburnum 'Eskimo', established a landmark in the breeding and development of elite viburnum cultivars. A compact, slow-growing shrub, 'Eskimo' is covered with white "snowballs" of tubular flowers in early May. Handsome, dark green, semi-evergreen foliage is resistant to bacterial leaf spot. This is a perfect plant for the home or the public garden!


'Eskimo' Viburnum

Botanical: Viburnum 'Eskimo'
Name: (NA 43148; PI 445780)
Family: Caprifoliaceae
Hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zones 6 - 8

Development: 'E x carlesii' was crossed with 'E. ashei' in 1962. A selection from this cross was self-pollinated in 1967. From this seedling population with 3-species parentage, a plant was selected for evaluation in 1975, named and released in 1983 as 'Eskimo'.

Significance: 'Eskimo' establishes a landmark in the development of elite viburnum cultivars. It is the first selection that combines the tubular flower type in a snowball inflorescence from 'E. ashei' with the dwarf growth habit and semi-evergreen foliage of 'E. carlesii'.

Description: Height and width: 4-5 feet tall and wide. Habit: Deciduous to semi-evergreen, slow-growing, compact shrub. Foliage: Leathery, glossy, dark green, semi-evergreen leaves; highly tolerant to bacterial leaf spot. Flowers: Abundant, pure white, 3-4 inch snowball inflorescences of tubular white flowers in early May. Fruit: A drupe. Fruits ripen in August to a dull red and then to black.

Culture: 'Eskimo' is readily cultivated under diverse climatic and soil conditions, but grows best in full sun to partial shade in a heavy loam with an adequate moisture supply.

Propagation: Roots easily from semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 1000 ppm IBA, in 4 weeks.

Landscape Use: Specimen plant, hedge, massed group, shrub border. Slow-growing, compact growth habit makes it ideal for the home landscape. Excellent in containers.

Availability: Readily available from mail-order firms and retail and wholesale nurseries.

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit