

# Joan Sargent's Viburnum Wisdom

May 1995 by Joan Sargent

Every winter Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn' gives me sprigs of fragrant flowers; it is easy to force for the darkest days. In April, I admire the lacquer red buds of Viburnum carlesii which when open, fills the air with their fragrance. A great American garden writer called the V. carlesii "a combination of gardenia and carnation". The pure white flowers of the double file Viburnum plicatum tomentosum come out next and although not fragrant, they are long lasting. There is a pink variety and some small and shrubby ones too. In the fall I watch the foliage color and birds fighting over the fruit of the sargentii and setigerum. All winter long no Viburnum is more imposing than the evergreen pragense; with all its long dark leathery leaves -- it grows to 8 feet and would make an excellent screen.

If you don't know this family of hardy disease - and deer resistant shrubs, most happy in sun or light shade, it's time to take a look.

With 120 species and endless cultivars, there are lots to choose from.

A book I recommend to those interested in expanding their shrub collections is "Flowering Shrubs and Small Trees" by Isabel Zucker.

*Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote many gardening columns through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again- this time with photos researched on the internet.*



Above, Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn'.  
Below is V. plicatum tomentosum.



Above, evergreen V. pragense. with elongated leaves.  
Top left, V. carlesii  
Left 2 photos are Viburnums in fall berries and color.

