Viburnum tinus

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Introduction

Laurestinus produces many pinkish-white, fragrant, early spring flowers, followed by ornamental blue-black fruit which attract birds (Fig. 1). Young shrubs grow mostly upright, eventually spreading slightly to form a vase shape. Although old plants reach to about 15-feet-tall, most grow no taller than about 12 feet.

General Information

Scientific name: Viburnum tinus
Pronunciation: vye-BER-num TYE-nus
Common name(s): Laurestinus Viburnum
Family: Caprifoliaceae
Plant type: shrub
USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 9 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 7: year round
Planting month for zone 8: year round
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: hedge; border; specimen; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; accent; attracts butterflies
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description

Height: 6 to 12 feet
Spread: 2 to 4 feet
Plant habit: oval
Plant density: moderate
Growth rate: slow
Texture: medium
Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: entire

Figure 1. Laurestinus Viburnum.
Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: variegated
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: pinkish-white
Flower characteristic: pleasant fragrance; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval
Fruit length: less than .5 inch
Fruit cover: fleshy
Fruit color: black
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: green
Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: poor
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant
Use and Management

The upright, dense, evergreen form makes it a good shrub for background, barrier or screen plantings, especially if there is not much room for a wide spreading plant. Stems are strong, keeping the plant upright, even when in flower. Working well as a clipped or unclipped hedge, Laurestinus can also be used as a specimen planted alone as an accent in the garden.

Laurestinus Viburnum grows in full sun or partial shade on moderately fertile, nematode-free, well-drained soils, but will tolerate fairly poor soils. It is easy to maintain in a container. Plant on 3 to 4-foot-centers to form a mass planting in the landscape. Because plants grow slowly, they require little pruning to maintain the upright form.


Propagation is from cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

Potential problems include aphids, thrips, mites, and nematodes. Mildew, leaf spot and root rot can be a problem.