



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Viburnum tinus*<sup>1</sup>

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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

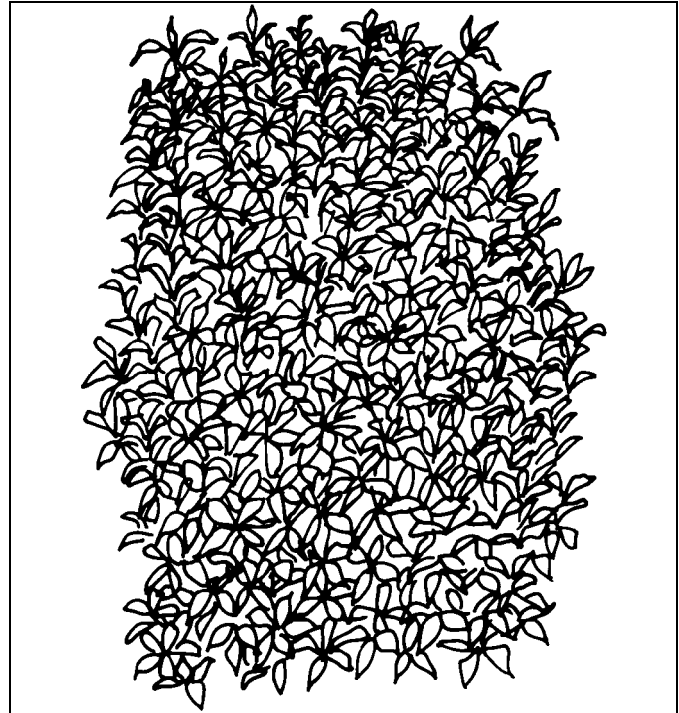


Figure 1. Laurestinus Viburnum.

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

#### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

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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.

Available cultivars include: 'Eve Price', pink flowers, compact form, small leaves; 'Lucidum', large leaves; 'Strictum', upright habit of growth; 'Variegatum', green and cream leaves with pink leaf-stalks.

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.

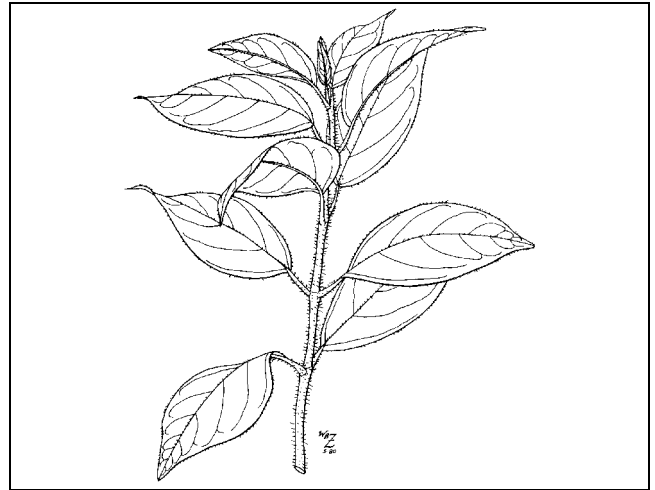


Figure 3. Foliage of Laurestinus Viburnum